Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-183
Wednesday
21 September 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-183 *21 September 1994*

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 16 Sep

NC2109101294

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Conflict With Shari'ah, Added Economic Burden Seen in ICPD Recommendations
2. Trade Unions Reject Western Schemes To Destroy Islamic Societies

CONFLICT WITH SHARI'AH, ADDED ECONOMIC BURDEN SEEN IN ICPD RECOMMENDATIONS

A 3,000-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on pages 1, 3 and 7 claims that many of the recommendations issued by the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, "run counter to Islamic shari'ah, primarily a pledge by developing nations to stop population growth completely."

The report notes that "Islamic states failed to eliminate the paragraphs that run counter to the Islamic concept of a family" against the European insistence on passing the text that refers to "families in their numerous forms, be it marriage or other forms of unions that include homosexuals."

The report adds that Western states refused to omit statements that encourage teaching teenagers how to use contraceptives and condoms for protection against AIDS.

It maintains that the ICPD adds to the already heavy economic burden undertaken by developing nations oy stating in its recommendations that Third World countries will undertake two-thirds of the cost involved in implementing these recommendations.

The report notes, however, that Islamic states succeeded in "wrestling" some gains and amending the texts to make them in line with Islamic shari'ah. He notes the Egyptian, Iranian, and Pakistani efforts in this connection.

TRADE UNIONS REJECT WESTERN SCHEMES TO DESTROY ISLAMIC SOCIETIES

In a 1,500-word report on page 2, 'Amir 'Id writes that a trade unions conference held in Alexandria voiced its rejection of "Western schemes to destroy the Islamic societies through the ICPD."

Attended by some 10,000 participants in Alexandria last Friday, the conference denounced the ICPD document "which runs counter to Islamic shari'ah" and affirmed that "Muslims will stand firmly against attempts to destroy beliefs and ruin ethical values."

Speaking at the conference, Dr. al-Shafi'i Bashir, professor of international law at the University of al-Mansurah, maintained that "the ICPD went too far in its antipathy to God when it openly and insolently called for permitting abortion, homosexuality, and extramarital sex...and for equality between man and woman in inheritance, thus launching a forthright call for revolting against God's orders."

Refuting the ICPD claim that world resources will not meet the needs of its population some day, Dr. Bashir maintains that there is a definite world conspiracy to get rid of Islam through killing, weakening, and humiliating its followers. Linking the issue of banning the Islamic headscarf at schools with the ICPD, he contends that the ultimate objective of the conference was to Westernize or Americanize our lifestyle.

Dr. Fawzi Tayil, former professor of strategy at the Nasir Military Academy, maintains that our battle with the West is a cultural one and that it is designed to achieve the "full separation between man and Islam."

Speaking about the ICPD document, Dr. Tayil said: "It disguised poison as honey to seize our natural and environmental resources."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Faramawi, professor of Koranic sciences and interpretations at al-Azhar University, outlines nine violations of Islamic laws in the ICPD draft program. They are: Ignoring religion and heavenly values, calling for the abrogation of inheritance, working for the destruction of the family, canceling parents' custodianship on their children, fighting early marriage and thus encouraging fornication, legalizing adultery, permitting abortion, fighting the circumcision of girls, and controlling birth.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Tarifi on Ross Tour, Israeli 'Pretexts'

JN2009201994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, PNA "minister for general coordination for the civilian authorities," by Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad on 20 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awad] Dennis Ross, the U.S. special Middle East coordinator, arrived in Damascus today. He is scheduled to visit the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] areas in Gaza and meet with President 'Arafat. Would you comment on Ross's visit to the region?

[Al-Tarifi] I hope it will bear fruit in pushing the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks forward to complete the peace process in the region. I hope that it will bridge the gap between the Syrian and Israeli sides because, as you are aware, we as Palestinians and the PNA, are concerned with the completion of the peace process in the region especially following the Israeli-Jordanian declaration of principle.

As for his visit to the PNA areas, I am told that he will meet with President 'Arafat tomorrow, God willing. I hope his visit will have a great leverage in pressuring Israel into implementing the agreement because in many cases, Israel deviates from the agreement and gives wrong pretexts.

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['Awad] Israel rejects fixing a date for talks over elections. Abu-Mazin—Mahmud 'Abbas—and Dr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi yesterday asserted that talks on elections will be held on 28 September.

[Al-Tarifi] It is clear that during 'Arafat's recent tour and his recent meeting with Shim'on Peres in Oslo, there was an agreement to begin talks on elections on 28 September. However, I think that Israel is not only evading discussion of the elections. [sentence as heard] We hope that it will be serious in negotiations over the elections because these elections mean the redeployment of the Israeli army outside areas inhabited by Palestinians and the deployment of the Israeli police force.

['Awad] Mr. Minister, Israel has a condition for discussing this issue. This condition is that Jerusalem and the settlements should not be discussed. There are Israeli conditions then?

[Al-Tarifi] The Jerusalem issue is clear. According to the Oslo agreement, the Palestinians in Jerusalem, our brothers in Arab Jerusalem, have the right to vote and run for elections. This means that Jerusalem and its inhabitants will participate in the election process. There should be ballot boxes inside Arab Jerusalem. Therefore, we hope that the Americans will bring pressure to bear on Israel to abide by the Oslo agreement and not to give incorrect pretexts.

['Awad] Will Dennis Ross discuss this with Israel during his current tour?

[Al-Tarifi] I hope so. I hope that he will show understanding of some Palestinian demands concerning the issue of donor states and the IMF.

['Awad] Concerning the IMF and donor states, has the Cairo meeting for the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR] drawn up a mechanism to deal with the donor states?

[Al-Tarifi] As you know, the PECDAR meeting ended yesterday and we have no details. We hope Finance Minister al-Nashashibi will return today to put everyone in the picture.

['Awad] Minister al-Tarifi, again, Israel's condition for discussing elections in the Palestinian areas is that all the Palestinian civilian powers should be transferred to the PNA. This means that unless these powers are completely transferred, it will not discuss elections. What is your position?

[Al-Tarifi] This contravenes the Oslo Declaration of Principles. Following the elections, a negotiating process will begin to transfer the remainder of the civilian powers to the PNA. Basically, on the eve of the elections, the Israeli security forces would have redeployed outside the inhabited Palestinian areas.

['Awad] Our last question, as a coordinator for civilian authorities, are negotiations with the Israeli side bogged down now?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, the negotiations within the security committee are bogged down because of the Israeli intransigence on many issues such as the safe passage and the detainees and several security issues.

['Awad] Thank you Minister al-Tarifi.

Al-Husayni on Israeli Withdrawal, Elections

Discusses PNA-Jordanian Differences

JN2109095494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Manama, 21 Sep (WAKH)—Dr. Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the negotiations with Israel, has said that the Jerusalem issue should be kept away from political maneuvers and from inter-Arab and Jordanian-Palestinian differences.

In a statement published here in today's edition of AL-AYYAM newspaper, al-Husayni said that the issues being labeled as points of difference between the Palestinians and Jordanians are issues that can be solved through calm dialogue between the two sides and through coordination with all Arab countries.

Al-Husayni added that an Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories began in Oslo and will not stop. He noted that the peace process did not come from an Israeli or Palestinian decision, but from an international decision, because the world is need of regional cooperation.

Moreover, al-Husayni said he is not satisfied with the acts of resistance launched from self-rule areas. He noted that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] wants to build itself and its institutions, saying: We cannot accomplish this if we are subject to daily Israeli attacks and shelling or to any such threats. Hence, we will not accept any move from within the PNA area without coordination and understanding with the PNA.

Al-Husayni denied any Palestinian pledge to stop the intifadah in the Palestinian territories. He said that the intifadah, as we understand it, does not just mean the throwing of stones and staging of demonstrations, it is the Palestinian people's move toward reconstructing the infrastructure in order to build the Palestinian state.

Discusses Jerusalem Strategy

NC2009165094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Sep 94 p 6

[Report on an interview with Faysal al-Husayni, member of the PNA Council and official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, by Mas'ud al-Hinnawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] Throughout his dialogue with AL-AHRAM, which was conducted during the Arab league Council's meetings in Cairo, al-Husayni called for adopting an Arab-Islamic strategy to resolve the issue of Jerusalem. He urged the Arab countries not to speed up the peace process before working out a solution to this issue.

The Palestinian official defended Palestinian-Israeli efforts to advance the negotiations, which he described as

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slow and difficult. Al-Husayni added: Although there is an agreement on the early transfer of power involving five spheres and although this was an Israeli proposal at one stage, the Israelis have been dealing with this principle as if it were a Palestinian demand, not an Israeli proposal.

Al-Husayni accused Israel of obstructing elections in the occupied Palestinian territories in an attempt to halt its withdrawal. He pointed out that Israel's refusal to redeploy the Israeli forces and withdraw them from residential areas obstructs the election process. He said: We are trying to hold the election on 15 October and we hoped the Israeli forces would have withdrawn from the residential areas by then. We also hope that Israel will give up its excuses and will stop procrastinating when discussing these issues.

The Palestinian official praised the Arab League Council's meetings, which called for restoring Arab Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem in its capacity as the capital of the independent Palestinian state. Al-Husayni said the Arab League is now in a better position to assess things and officials are trying to keep away from theories in making decisions.

The Palestinian official stressed the need for an Arab Islamic strategy regarding Jerusalem. We may obtain financial aid from the donor countries but the issue of financial aid to Jerusalem remains an Arab Islamic responsibility, al-Husayni said. Commenting on the failure to mention Jerusalem in the agreement concluded during the donor states' meetings in Oslo recently in the presence of 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, despite the Palestinian leadership's insistence on this issue, al-Husayni said that the agreement mentions financial aid to develop the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] regions. Since Jerusalem has not become a PNA region it was not listed.

Continuing, al-Husayni said: We tried to argue that the financial aid is devoted to the Palestinian people. Since there are Palestinians in Jerusalem, we must give them part of the aid. But the donor states insisted on complying with the clause that says that the financial aid is devoted to the PNA regions. He called on the Arabs to take no further steps forward in the peace process until the issue of Jerusalem has been solved. He urged the Arab countries to coordinate efforts on the highest level and to adopt an unequivocal decision on this issue. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni voiced the hope that the differences among the Palestinian factions will remain as such and will not develop into clashes.

Al-Zahhar Says Hamas Seeks Coordination With PNA

JN2109113794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], yesterday said that Hamas is not seeking confrontation with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He said that if it impossible to forge identical political views with the PNA on the peace process and the current talks with Israel, his movement will still seek to coordinate stands.

Al-Zahhar submitted an eight-point proposal to the PNA on the priorities and tasks for the Palestinian people in the coming stage. He stressed the need to maintain the people's security away from political positions and disagreements, and to keep the achievements of the humanitarian and professional establishments. He also called for promoting social justice and intellectual pluralism in a manner that would serve the Palestinian society.

Gaza Security Chief on Hamas Incident, Ties

MM2109113994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, PNA director of public security, by Salih Qallab in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] What is the truth about what happened the night before last in relation to the clash between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah?

[Yusuf] It must be pointed out that the clash was not between Hamas and Fatah but between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. What really happened was, briefly, that the National Security forces had set up a roadblock on one of Rafah's side roads. Just before midnight an armed Hamas vehicle passed. When asked by the security elements manning the raodblock to disembark, the Hamas members suddenly opened fire and tried to escape. They killed a General Intelligence major. Two of them were wounded. One of the two, who was critically wounded, is now under treatment in one of the hospitals, and the other, slightly wounded, escaped after he was admitted to the hospital.

[Qallab] Was that a casual incident or was it premeditated and fabricated to cause problems in the area?

[Yusuf] Actually, the armed Hamas vehicle in question was on a combat mission. That is why its members did not obey the National Security orders and immediately opened fire.

[Qallab] According to a statement issued by Hamas, Major Yusri al-Hams was mistakenly killed by Palestinian security forces' fire. What is the truth about that?

[Yusuf] The truth is that that is a lie and a fabrication. Just for your information, that major was one of the best Palestinian revolution fighters. He spent 10 years in Israeli prisons before he was released and deported. He was also known in the town of Rafah for his good reputation and conduct and for settling problems between people of his town and area.

As his home was near the National Security roadblock, he immediately proceeded to the roadblock as soon as the argument began between the elements manning the roadblock and the occupants of the Hamas vehicle. He wanted to settle the problem peacefully, but the Hamas members shot and killed him and then tried to escape and that led to the subsequent events.

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[Qallab] Do you expect that incident to lead to an all-out confrontation with Hamas and the opposition forces?

[Yusuf] We in the PNA avoid and do not want confrontation with anyone, but we will do our duty and we will establish security and stability for our country and people. I want to point out here that the political leadership had decided to stop taking any measures against Hamas. That is why, before that incident, there was not a single member in Palestinian prisons.

[Qallab] How manay Hamas members were detained after that incident?

[Yusuf] We only detained five members, and we did so because they tried to abduct the wounded member from the hospital by force.

[Qallab] What precautionary measures have you taken to prevent the widening of the confrontation?

[Yusuf] We have placed our forces on alert and we are ready to do our duty,, but we await the decision of the political leadership.

[Qallab] Did you storm any Hamas center after that incident?

[Yusuf] We know all the Hamas centers but we have not stormed any of them because we do not wish to increase the scope of the clashes, pending the political leadership's decision on the matter.

[Qallab] Does that mean that you are considering disarming Hamas and the opposition forces?

[Yusuf] Everything depends on the political leadership's decision. If the political leadership so decides, we will not leave a single weapon in the hands of Hamas.

[Qallab] What is Hamas' armed strength?

[Yusuf] Hamas only has 70 armed men in the Gaza Strip, and we know their locations and positions perfectly well. If the political leadership decides to disarm them, we would be able to carry out that decision within hours.

[Qallab] But such a measure might upset the people of Gaza.

[Yusuf] I tell you frankly that the people of Gaza are against armed manifestations and are in favor of getting rid of the arms. They also have suffered much from Hamas's transgressions and attempts to impose its will on them by force.

[Qallab] You have said that the incident was premeditated and had political objectives, but Hamas says otherwise.

[Yusuf] I have told you that the car intercepted at the roadblock was on a combat mission. Hamas's plan is to inundate the PNA and keep it preoccupied with daily security matters so as to give people the impression that the situation is moving toward civil war and, consequently, prevent the arrival of investment funds in the autonomy region, and so abort the experiment.

[Qallab] After the incident, did the Hamas leadership try to contact you to solve the problem amicably?

[Yusuf] The Hamas leadership contacted me, but I refused to meet with it because that was outside the bounds of my task and because that is a matter for the Palestinian political leadership.

[Qallab] What is the position of the other opposition forces?

[Yusuf] Only the Islamic Jihad sided with Hamas, but the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] is for stability, calm, and the success of the experiment.

(In that context, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, PNA's secretary general, what prevented the PNA from taking a decisive measure regarding Hamas.

(He replied: The political leadership wants national unity and wants to settle problems and contradictions by peaceful means and to arrive at a common denominator. It has succeeded in doing that with some elements of Hamas itself, but other elements in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad want to escalate in order to abort the success attained in Gaza at all levels as reflected in the restoration of normal life and economic recovery. That party wants to drag the other parties interested in coexistence over to its position in order to plunge the country into a furnace of anarchy and instability.

(He added: In view of these premeditations, the Palestinian leadership believes that, in order to establish security and stability, it must use the necessary ways and means to end sedition. I say here that we are under popular pressure to put an end to all these things.

(Asked if, by that, he meant disarming the opposition forces, 'Abd-al-Rahim said: The Palestinian leadership is now studying all aspects of that matter and it has contacted all the forces concerned. It will certainly make the appropriate decision at the right time.)

'Threatened' Traders Stop Importing from Jordan

MM2009135994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi: "Amman: Palestinian Threats Prevent West Bank Traders From Importing Jordanian Commodities"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Informed sources in Amman stressed yesterday that Palestinian traders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have stopped applying for licenses to import commodities from Jordan since they received "threats" from the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The sources added that the Israeli occupation authorities have not granted any Palestinian trader a license to import Jordanian commodities despite a Jordanian-Israeli agreement stipulating that Jordan export $30 million worth of goods a year to the occupied territories.

The sources stressed that the self-rule authority had "threatened" traders and prevented them from applying for import licenses because it was angry that Jordan had signed an export agreement with Israel but not with it. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Zeroual Addresses Dialogue Participants

LD2009181994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] The fourth round of the national dialogue opened today. Head of State Liamine Zeroual addressed representatives of the five parties taking part in the talks. He stressed the desire to give momentum to the dialogue track until its objectives have been attained. Here is a report on the head of state's address by Mohamed Chalouche, our correspondent at the presidency,

[Chalouche] Addressing the parties taking part in the national dialogue today, the head of state asserted the desire to give momentum to this track until the citizens' objectives have been attained. In his speech, Mr. Zeroual emphasized the need to pursue efforts and intensify contacts to guarantee wide participation in the dialogue and make further progress on this track. The head of state considers this as an unavoidable part of the process of settling the crisis that Algeria is going through.

President Zeroual made it clear that the presidency has met its commitments agreed upon in previous rounds. He said in this respect: I have already announced that contacts have taken place with officials of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front]. Addressing the participating parties, Mr. Zeroual added: A few days ago, you saw the important measures decided on and carried out concerning the officials of the dissolved party so as to permit them to work to stop the bloodshed and offer their contribution to the collective effort for a solution to the crisis in the country. The state, he said, has also continued its contacts with those parties that were invited but are absent.

Mr. Zeroual's address also hinted at the responsibilities of the parties. Concerning the participating parties, he recalled the delay agreed upon to facilitate the continuity and success of the national dialogue, and the agreement of the participating parties to think about the contribution expected from them regarding creating the conditions for the success of the dialogue. President Zeroual also said: My hope is that, for your part, you have been able to use these last two weeks to make contacts and put forward useful ideas in the service of this collective effort of ours. The head of state did not hesitate to reproach the parties that have been invited but have remained absent. After recalling that the presidency has continued contacts with them, he expressed regret that efforts have proved fruitless. He pointed out that the Algerian people as a whole are expecting a great deal from this dialogue, both from the state and the political parties, including those that are still absent.

President Zeroual declared: Each of us has a responsibility that he must shoulder, and it cannot be otherwise so long as dialogue means partners, and so long as the crisis, which this dialogue is seeking to resolve, remains a political crisis which no one can claim does not concern him. Another significant remark made by the head of state referred to the style of the dialogue which, he said, is a style based on transparency. This has enabled the public to follow closely all that has been proposed to the parties to guide the dialogue. Most important in this respect, President Zeroual said, was the freedom to work out the organization and process of the dialogue by the participating parties themselves, while continuing to respect the framework and constants that have been and will continue to be an inevitable necessity for all. The head of state concluded his address by renewing his message of good will and sincerity. He urged the invited but absent political parties to put Algeria's interest above all considerations.

Fourth Round of National Dialogue Ends

LD2009224794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] A short while ago a marathon dialogue session ended between the the regime represented by head of state Liamine Zeroual and the five political parties taking part in this round of the dialogue.

More details with colleague Mohamed Chellouche directly from the studio:

[Chellouche] Yes, Hasiba, it was indeed the longest session since the dialogue started on 21 August. It lasted more than 12 hours. The statements made by the leaders of the participating political parties after this round ended revealed a divergence in views concerning a number of the issues which were on the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Abdallah Jaballah spoke about an attempt to issue a joint communique by the head of state and the five participating parties, and a draft was actually prepared; however, agreement was not reached, and the matter ended in postponing the multilateral meetings and agreeing to continue the efforts on the bilateral meetings level.

According to Mr. Jaballah, all parties have also agreed to continue the efforts to ensure a wide participation and persuade the absent parties to join the dialogue table.

Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party, has attributed the length of the session to the compexity of the issues up for discussion, particularly those concerning the participation of the parties that have not yet been invited. He said: We prefer to postpone the multilateral meetings and leave the door open for bilateral meetings. The upcoming meeting will be fixed through consultations, he added.

Concerning the proposed joint communique, Mr. Mehri said that the current stage does not allow a formulation of a joint communique because a number of issues still needs to be studied.

Hamas leader Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah was the most optimistic of the speakers. He said that the desire for security and stability to prevail required additional measures that are more encouraging and we might then perhaps reach an important stage, the stage of releasing all prisoners of conscience. He also said that the general situation requires

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the attendance of all the absent parties and made particular reference to the participation of the dissolved National Salvation Front and the Socialist Forces Front.

RCD Leader: 'We Should Not Give In'

LD2009132694 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 0554 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Interview with Said Sadi, secretary general of the Algerian RCD and chairman of the Movement for the Republic, by Gerard Leclerc on the "Four Truths" program—live]

[Text] [Leclerc] Good morning, good morning Said Sadi. You are secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] and chairman of the Movement for the Republic, one of the main democratic opposition forces in Algeria. I also recall that you were the target of an assassination attempt on 28 June last which our viewers saw and in which Veronique Tavot and Philippe Fremont, two members of a television crew, were injured. Today you are not taking part in the dialogue the regime is seeking to hold with the opposition. Why do you refuse to participate in these talks that aim to pull Algeria out of this crisis?

[Sadi] We don't refuse to take part in the talks. The problem is that the political practices of the regime have always turned the dialogue into a two-level process. The democratic parties are called in to pose for photographers while other issues and the problems of the country are addressed in secret, in prison halls or elsewhere. This is not very healthy or very efficient.

Two years have passed since President Boudiaf's assassination. For two years now these methods have led to catastrophic results and thousands of people have died as a result of these practices. We can no longer agree with these practices.

The solution to the Algerian crisis is not another clan realignment within the regime and this is precisely what is happening. The solution will only come from outside the regime.

[Leclerc] You say that the dialogue should not be held in prison halls, that is, with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]; but the problem is that the FIS is an essential force in Algeria. Could you deny this force and pretend that the Islamists do not exist?

[Sadi] First, one should not necessarily give in because something exists. You have experienced Nazism and I believe the French people did not give in. The issue, however, requires a profound discussion. I would only like to say in a few words what this is all about, what is the nature of fundamentalism in Algeria. There is widespread social discontent in the country, which is the result of the failure of the current regime.

There is a political group, with its networks abroad, with its ideological and political aims and which has taken over this social discontent. What the regime has been trying to do up until now, is moving closer to the fundamentalist ideas while repressing the youths whose situation is the result of its failure. We say that our problem is not these youths who are being hunted in the poor quarters, but this absolutistic and fascist tendency which is threatening democracy in the country and it is precisely with these people that the regime is trying to reach an agreement at the expense of democracy.

[Leclerc] You clearly are talking about the FIS and its fascist threat. One can answer you by saying that for two years now, thousands of people have died in Algeria, attacks and assassination attempts are carried out every day and a savage repression is going on. One cannot remain in this cycle of violence, one should pull out and the only way of getting out of this is to talk to all the parties in the conflict, including the FIS?

[Sadi] The people who died did not die of natural causes. They were murdered by those who hold political ideas that exclude any people who do not submit to them. One can well imagine what political life would look like if these people managed to take power. We say yes to talks, but dialogue is a means that is supposed to have objectives. So far, I have not once heard a fundamentalist leader say: let's try to pull the country out the crisis. They simply demand the surrender of political rights and the state. This is unacceptable. We are democrats and these things should not happen in our country.

[Leclerc] Government spokesman Laila Aslaoui has resigned because of the dialogue that will be held with the Islamists. Does this mean that there is a strong tension within the Algerian regime?

[Sadi] There is tension and a big crisis in the country; there is a crisis within the regime, there is an identity, political and institutional crisis in the country. There is complete disarray in the country and we are not far from total chaos. At this very moment, even though the press does not talk about it, I would like to say that thousands of Algerians are not at school, not because the Islamists called for the boycott of schools, but because the Berber Cultural Movement has said no to education, no to control over schools, and no to the neglect of the Algerian children. This because there is a complete disarray in the society and this disarray is also reflected in the institutions. The resignation of Laila Aslaoui is part of the lack of perspective on the part of the regime.

[Leclerc] I go back to my previous question: how is it possible to get out of this chaos and avoid the breakup of Algeria? Should elections be held? What can be done?

[Sadi] I think President Boudiaf showed the path when he said that religion belongs to the Algerian society and nobody has the right to manipulate it in order to reach or take power. The republic's values are not negotiable.

[Leclerc] So the demands of the Islamists should not be met?

[Sadi] We should not give in, we should not give in, because if we made the slightest concession, all our freedoms would be threatened.

[Leclerc] So what can be done?

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[Sadi] Tunisia has showed the example in this context by saying that religion should not be taken over and manipulated.

[Leclerc] So there should not be talks with the Islamists? Should elections be held? What can be done?

[Sadi] Elections should be organized once security conditions are met. The Algerians now know what fundamentalism really means. [passage omitted]

[Leclerc] The leader of the Tunisian Islamists said in an interview in LE MONDE, I quote—Whether France likes it or not, Algeria will be an Islamic state. What do you think?

[Sadi] I say exactly the contrary. Algeria is threatened by chaos but there will never be an Islamic republic in Algeria. Political Islamism came from institutions, it did not emerge from society. The manipulation of the schools, the media, the sole party and courts by the regime led to the fundamentalist threat against the country. We neither have the 4,000 mullahs nor the 2,000 ayatollahs that exist in Iran. It is a serious mistake to think that the Iranian experience could be repeated in Algeria. We will have a go at building democracy; this will not be easy but there is no alternative.

MPR Spokesman Rejects Dialogue With Islamists

LD2009153594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Among those rejecting dialogue is Farid Chikhi, spokesman of the MPR, the Movement for the Republic. This organization includes some 20 associations from civil society. Farid Chikhi is more than ever hostile to dialogue with the Islamists:

[Begin recording] [Chikhi] We cannot talk with people who kill and terrorize others, people who use violence on a daily basis against Algerian citizens in order to get their views, their positions, taken into account.

[Correspondent Kamel Djaider] And what do you think of those who believe that searching for a consensus—that would draw secular support ranging from the FLN [National Liberation Front] reformers to Mr. Ait Ahmed's FFS [Socialist Forces Front]—might be an alternative?

[Chikhi] But this is why the Movement for the Republic was created by Algerian citizens, a movement toward which all the patriotic and democratic forces of this country can converge, and which might come up with another formula.

You know, a political organization, just like any other organization, can move on to something wider. The MPR is an organization which is open to all the democratic and patriotic forces of this country, whether they are to be found within the FLN—and I am a former militant with the FLN—the FFS, the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] or another party or any other part of society. Let us keep in mind that, during the 1991 elections—on 26 December 1991—nearly five million Algerians, five million Algerian citizens, did not take part in these elections. [end recording]

FIS Official Denies Foreign Influence

MM2009124994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Salvation Front Denies Iranian Mediation and al-Turabi's Statements"]

[Excerpt] Paris—An [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] official abroad has denied the statement made by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF], about the role he claimed to have played in mediating between the Algerian Government and FIS.

Abdallah Ansi, member of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that al-Turabi's claim is untrue: There were some mediation attempts months ago, but they failed because the nature of the conflict in Algeria does not allow intervention by any non-Algerian sources, whether Islamic or non-Islamic, and the rejection of mediation proved that.

Asked if al-Turabi's statements would now help or harm FIS, the FIS official said: "Neither. They will not help it, because its struggle does not focus on foreign quarters in ideology, program, or material aid. They will not harm it, for the same reason."

On Sudan's and Iran's influence on FIS, he said: "That is a charge which the regime itself used to make to justify its failure, but last year it abandoned that charge after realizing that it was not true." On Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent statements, he said: "That is his duty to people who have been struggling for their rights, but it does not mean that there is an organizational link or an ideological affiliation."

Abdallah Ansi is known to be the most famous "Algerian Afghan." He was a leading figure in the Afghan arena and was close to Afghan Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Palestinian leader 'Abdallah 'Azzam who was martyred in Peshawar and whose daughter he married.

On his Afghan experience, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked if he believed in the independence of the Islamic political arena in Algeria or the need for such independence. He replied that, in terms of the nation's finding itself again and returning to God and religion, it was no different from the other fundamentalist movements in the world, but as far as policy, program, and mentality were concerned it had its own special features and characteristics.

Asked about his assessment of the "Algerian Afghans'" role, he replied: "The Afghans who participated in the Afghan jihad did so in Afghanistan in fulfillment of the Islamic duty to fight the Russian aggression on Islamic soil. After Najibollah's downfall and the Russian withdrawal, the young Algerian men returned to their country in nonpolitical circumstances because of the military coup.

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So they had no other option than to take up arms. The 'Afghans' were distributed between the Islamic Salvation Army and the Armed Islamic Group, but I cannot tell you anything specific about the organizational aspect."

Abdallah Ansi reaffirmed his personal commitment to the FIS framework. Commenting on the political developments following the release of the FIS leaders, he said: "My position is the same as that announced by the Executive Committee abroad, which is that what happened was a positive step but that it is insufficient to calm the situation and that what is required is fulfillment of all the conditions set by the cheikhs, such as allowing them to meet with the rest of the FIS leaders from both wings and with the members abroad."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT if he agreed with Rabeh Kebir's statement that FIS was capable of protecting Abbassi Madani and Belhadj, he replied: "Not yet. I will be able to confirm that point after they meet with the political and military wings, but not before." He reaffirmed the view that the regime should complete the remaining steps. He also rejected any foreign interference in Algerian affairs by "al-Turabi, France, or anyone else."

Concluding his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abdallah Ansi said: "The daring steps taken by President Zeroual call for caution as well as rapid progress, because the complex circumstances of the Algerian conflict could lead to undesirable developments, God forbid, particularly in relation to matters of security as far as the lives of the FIS leaders or even the life of President Zeroual are concerned, since there is a group within the regime which is opposed to that initiative." [passage omitted]

Berbers Call For General Strike in Kabylie

LD2109101194 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] In Algeria's Kabylie region, Berber movements—supported by the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the RCD, the Socialist Forces Front, the FFS, and the Ettahadi movement, the former communist party—are continuing to wrestle with the authorities for the Berber language to be recognized as a national and official language. After the apparently well heeded boycott movement launched by the schools, the movements are now calling for a general strike. Walid Bey reports:

[Bey] Berber militants believe that it is the [word indistinct] Islamic current within the authorities which prevents their demands from being met. This is why they have called for a general strike today, Wednesday, limited to the Kabylie region.

This movement has raised questions in several political circles. People wonder whether this is not a maneuver designed to put pressure on the course of the political dialogue led by President Zeroual.

The MSI-Hamas [Movement for Islamic Society] goes further. In its weekly ENNABA it expresses fears that this general strike called for by the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] may turn into a civil disobedience movement similar to that launched by the Islamic Salvation Front in June 1991. As for the MCB, it does not believe things could get out hand and it has highlighted the peaceful nature of the movement.

At the beginning of the school boycott, the education minister said nothing prevents the Berber language being taught, but the MCB wants more than a declaration of principle: it wants concrete decisions. It remains to be seen whether the government will yield under the pressure.

Bab Ezzouar Municipal Headquarters Bombed

LD2009130894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] The security services issued a statement yesterday in which it said that a criminal explosion took place on Sunday night at the headquarters of the municipal people's assembly in Bab Ezzouar, in the capital Algiers.

The same statement added that the explosion blew up the internal walls of the municipality headquarters and destroyed the furniture.

Security Forces Kill 21 'Terrorists'

LD2009201694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] In a statement issued today, the security authorities announced that between Friday and Sunday [16-18 September] they killed 21 terrorists and recovered a large number of weapons. The security authorities' statement indicates that this took place in Blida, Tipaza, Tizi Ouzou, Skikda, and Mila Provinces and that in some provinces citizens who had been attacked participated in the operation.

Egypt

Christopher Said Boosting Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC2009162894 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington will seek to boost the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said that his talks will also touch on Egyptian-U.S. ties.

In a statement prior to his departure for Washington today, Musa noted that Christopher's next Middle East tour will further the U.S. efforts to bolster the Middle East peace process. He pointed out that Egypt is conducting intensive contacts with all the concerned parties on this matter.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Arab foreign ministers will hold a meeting on the sidelines at the UN General Assembly to debate the UN resolutions on the Middle East which the United States and Israel are seeking to change.

Musa remarked that the Islamic countries' foreign ministers will also meet on the sidelines at the UN General

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Assembly to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the situation in that country is complicated because of the hesitant attitudes of some European and other influential countries.

Al-Baz Says Mideast Market Good Idea

NC2109103994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Alexandria, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that establishing a Middle East market is a good idea. He added: We must think of an Egyptian-Arab formula for the future and open several institutes for future studies. University professors, politicians, and experts in Egypt and the Arab world should meet to exchange views and envision future plans.

Speaking to the teaching staff of Alexandria University last night, Dr. al-Baz said he believed a limited Arab market could be established first, with all Arab countries joining it later. The existence of non-Arab countries in the Middle East, he added, should be considered, and these countries must have a place in the idea of the market.

He said the idea was proposed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and it seeks to join the forces of Israeli brains, Arab labor, and Gulf capital. We must not take a position against this good idea, and we must study it, Dr. al-Baz said.

He said we must use the right technology to solve the problem of unemployment among our youth now and for generations to come.

Discussing Iraq, Dr. al-Baz said: We want to help the Iraqi people by lifting the sanctions against them. But we cannot take a unilateral position. The Arab countries must be consulted so that our moves can be accepted by all sides.

He stressed that no messages have been exchanged between the Egyptian and Iraqi leaderships. He said: We want to lift the sanctions against the Iraqi people, but we cannot move except within the Arab framework and after Iraq recognizes Kuwait's independence and solves the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners.

Dr. al-Baz said that leadership will be automatically achieved when we absorb technology without arrogance and serve as a model for others.

On Yemen, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt always seeks stability in the Arabian Peninsula. He said Egypt advised the Yemeni leadership to maintain unity, but not through war. It is wrong to destabilize that unity or preserve it by force, he said.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments at End of Cairo Visit

NC2009160094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi left Cairo today following a visit lasting several days.

He said that during his visit he attended the 102d session of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council and the meetings of the Palestinian Economic Council.

He remarked that the meetings achieved the desired results thanks to fraternal Egypt's hospitality and President Husni Mubarak's wise policy. He noted that President Mubarak met brother president Yasir 'Arafat and discussed developments in the Palestinian issue. Qaddumi said Egypt still backs the Palestinian people's efforts to regain their full national rights.

Qaddumi added that he met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and reviewed with them developments in the Palestinian issue and events in the Palestinian territories. He emphasized Egypt's positive role in boosting the peace operation and the quest to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Contacts Made on Nile Steamer Detained by Sudan

NC2009163894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Aswan, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Nile Valley Maritime Authority is making contacts with Sudan to follow up on the situation resulting from the Sudanese authorities' detention of the Egyptian Nile steamer "Sinai" in Wadi Halfa Port since last Monday [12 September].

Engineer Ahmad 'Ali Husni Abu-Rahmah, chairman of the Authority's board of directors, said radio contact is being maintained with the Sinai's skipper to learn what is happening and inquire about his and his crew's safety. According to the latest radio conversation earlier today, the captain and the crew were reported in good health.

Engineer Abu-Rahmah said the Authority has informed Egyptian and Sudanese transport officials of the situation. He pointed out that the movement of goods between the Aswan High Dam port and the Wadi Halfa Port is proceeding normally.

As for passenger service, however, the Sunday trip from the Aswan High Dam Port by the Saqi al-Na"am, another river steamer, was delayed pending the return of the "Sinai". The aim is to maintain regular movement of the steamers.

It should be noted that the Nile Valley Maritime Authority is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese authority formed in line with a 1975 agreement between the two governments. Each government owns 50 percent of the capital and appoints 50 percent of the employees and board directors. The chairman's post alternates between Sudan and Egypt once every three years.

The Authority owns two large steamers, the "Sinai" and "Saqi al-Na"m", each of which can carry 500 passengers and costs 30 million pounds.

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Iraqi Sanctions, Reconciliation Discussed

NC2009191294 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "We Welcome Arab Reconciliation... But on What Basis?"]

[Text] The UN Security Council yesterday decided to extend the sanctions on Iraq based on its failure to implement the relevant UN resolutions, notably the resolution requiring it to declare formal and public recognition of Kuwait's borders and sovereignty.

The international organization's decision proves that the Iraqi crisis will not be solved by illusory Arab mediation, but by convincing the powers of Arab and international law that Iraq has stuck by all the resolutions issued before and since the Gulf war.

Those who maliciously spread rumors that Egypt is happy with the continuing embargo on Iraq are liars. Egypt's ethics, values, pride, and vanguard leadership do not permit it to resort to such conduct regarding the fraternal nation's bitter hardship. The Egyptian leadership and people fully sympathize with the Iraqis, because they were not responsible for the tragedy they are now enduring.

Proof of this sentiment is found in Egyptian support for Iraq and its people when the country's sovereignty and very existence faced the threat of Iranian occupation. Egypt extended assistance and established air bridges to transport equipment and ammunition to save al-Basrah from falling into Iranian hands.

This was Egypt's position—rescuing Iraq during its war with Iran, which, after all, was one of the tyrant Saddam Husayn's whimsical errors.

A review of events proves that the inspired leader readily believed misleading information that excited his ambitions and his false sense of heroism and made him think that the opportunity existed to achieve a resounding victory on the Iranian front.

Because of his evil entourage's shallow mentality, lack of political expertise, corruption, and hypocrisy, the Iraqi regime's leader fell into the trap of the Iranian war, dragging his country behind him. The bloody war ended in Saddam Husayn's public surrender to Tehran's condition of sharing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

Iraq paid an exorbitant price for this eight-year war: Billions of dollars, over half a million martyrs and war-maimed, the destruction of numerous installations, and a halt to development plans.

The unique leader, still licking his wounds, believed that he could make up his losses by invading Kuwait, the oil-rich Muslim Arab neighbor.

As in his war with Iran, Saddam imagined that he had a green light. That light was no more than a new trap into which he fell.

Egypt and President Husni Mubarak strenuously tried to save him from what he was doing. They advised him to reconsider and abandon his insane quest but he thought this was a conspiracy against his dreams, his hopes of false heroism, and his expectations of seizing billions of petrodollars.

He rejected all the advice that sought to help him save face and avert the catastrophe. Instead of responding with gratitude to Egypt and its president for their noble stance, he resorted to every form of invective, accusations, and threats, which revealed the character of a lout, not someone suitable for leadership or politics.

The catastrophe occurred. Saddam Husayn, who told the world he would open the gates of hell in front of the allied forces, was defeated. The scenario of the defeat lasted only a few hours, after which the formidable hero, who imagined himself to be an awesome commander of a battle dubbed (the mother of battles), surrendered. The mother of battles turned into the mother of defeats.

The helpless Iraqi people bore the consequences of Saddam Husayn's new crime—a crime against them and against all Arab and Islamic nations.

There is no way one can say that this fraternal nation is responsible for what it suffers. The responsibility belongs to the single leader who rules his people with blood, fire, terror, and intimidation.

The question now is this: What would have happened if Saddam Husayn had listened to Egyptian advice, as put forth in more than 30 letters and appeals by President Mubarak, prior or even after the invasion of Kuwait?

Saddam would have turned into a real hero if he had subjected his actions to reason and logic. It was expected, according to messages exchanged during the crisis and before the invasion occurred, that he would have received several billion dollars to ease his financial difficulties deriving from his eight-year war with Iran. However, God struck him blind and willed that he be humiliated and disgraced because of his deviant thinking and actions. All his dreams collapsed in that crushing defeat.

It is necessary to say that the Egyptian people and leadership would be very happy to see the Iraqi nation's ordeal end and to see the Iraqis again actively participate in collective Arab action without any evil or aggressive tendencies.

On the occasion of the Security Council's extension of the sanctions, I do not know the feelings of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, a sincere student of all the lies and misguidance of the leader of Baghdad's bloody regime. No doubt 'Aziz was very disappointed to hear the remarks of the Soviet [as published] delegate that Iraq must abide by the Security Council's resolutions. The significance of this statement is that the $10-billion deal that Baghdad struck with Moscow has not affected the responsible Russian position as Baghdad had hoped. Oh how much I hope that this slap will silence Tariq 'Aziz's specious and rude arguments and his invective. It was this type of language by him that made reasonable people in Egypt refuse to believe that Iraq had proposed an initiative and had requested

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Egyptian mediation. I denied that there was such mediation in an article in AL-AKHBAR two weeks ago. Later President Mubarak made this fact clear in several statements to the press.

Gentlemen, there will be no Egyptian or other mediation to solve Iraq's problem unless Iraq unquestionably becomes reasonable and accepts all the Security Council's resolutions. It is necessary to point out that where ethics, principles, and law are concerned, Arab and international legality agree in demanding that all the effects of the unjustified Iraqi aggression be eliminated.

While wholeheartedly welcoming the efforts to clear up the differences and promote inter-Arab reconciliation for the good of the Arab nation and to strengthen it vis-a-vis regional and international challenges, we declare that this big achievement will not be brought about by embraces, kisses, hopes, and sweet talk. Nor will it be achieved according to the Arab principle of impotence: Let bygones be bygones.

Arab reconciliation must be based on sound and realistic foundations involving mutual respect, renunciation of aggression, cooperation, and a real desire to place supreme pan-Arab interest above destructive adventures.

Editor Assails Iran for Anti-Egypt Remarks

NC2109074894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' in the "Calmly Speaking" column: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani and His Stray Arrows Against Egypt"]

[Excerpts] The state of confusion and bewilderment that characterizes the moves and policies of the Iranian regime on all domestic and foreign levels continues. The latest proof of this was a statement by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is being tortured by his own hatred against Egypt and its political leadership.

In a lengthy statement to a French newspaper, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed willingness to establish good, strong relations with all world governments, except for those of the United States, Israel, and Egypt. He accused Egypt of taking the initiative in creating disturbances in the Palestine question. Through these statements, Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave yet further evidence of the state of confusion and imbalance the Iranian regime is going through. This state is a result of worsening domestic crises on the one hand and of foreign isolation on the other. [passage omitted]

Because of all this, the Iranian regime has been blundering along, which is manifested lately in leveling false accusations against the Egyptian people and government. Indeed, Hashemi-Rafsanjani went so far as to claim that Egypt took the initiative in creating disturbances in the Palestine question. This, he said, is the reason Iran is not going to establish good, strong relations with Egypt.

Although the Iranian president's statement is not worthy of a reaction, I would like to make the following remarks:

1. The Iranian regime realizes that Egypt is the main obstacle to its attempts to disintegrate and weaken the Arab world, and its endeavors to impose its hegemony on the Arabian Gulf states and turn Iran into a major regional country. The Iranian regime has been exploiting religion and its creed to export the principles of the Iranian revolution, trying to infiltrate Arab societies and control them from within through regimes loyal to it, as it did in Sudan. Because of Egypt's role in foiling this scheme, the Iranian regime, from time to time, makes many false claims and allegations against Egypt.

2. The Iranian claim is astonishing because none of the parties doubt the Egyptian role in backing the Palestinian cause and supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, despite all the aspersions. No other party has given the Palestinian cause the constant support and backing that Egypt has. No one knows what disturbances in the Palestinian cause the Iranian president is talking about. The Iranian president might know that the Palestinian cause has made a great leap forward recently. Despite all the difficulties that have plagued the peaceful settlement process, the Palestinians have succeeded in establishing the first political authority in their history over their national soil. This means the liberation of part of the Palestinian territories and of an important sector of the Palestinian people from the Israeli occupation. This represents an important preparatory step toward ending the Israeli occupation.

3. In the first place, Iran does not have the right to defend the Palestinian people's cause. Iran has constantly played a destructive role in the Palestinian issue, not only now but since the eruption of the Iranian revolution. Instead of defending the Palestinian and Arab rights then, Iran's leaders turned a deaf ear to all the appeals to end the Iraq-Iran war, which exhausted an important part of Arab resources and diverted attention from the other Arab causes for eight years. The Iranian leadership did not hesitate then in cooperating with just any country, including the countries that the Iranian president is saying that his country will not establish good and strong relations with. During that war, Iran did not hesitate to cooperate with the United States and Israel to get the weapons it needed in what became known as the "Iran-Contra" case. It also secretly cooperated with Israel to obtain many weapons systems and the necessary equipment for continuing the war against Iraq. Yet Iran was compelled in the end to submit and stop the fighting with Iraq after having dissipated the country's human and economic resources and capabilities.

In all cases, the Iranian leadership was content with making quixotic speeches and fiery statements in defense of Palestinian and Arab rights but without taking any real or serious actions. Iran is regarded as the only country in the world that is doing all it can to sabotage the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement and is using all possible means to stop the peaceful settlement process in the region. Iran is even working within this context to incite the radical Palestinian groups to oppose the peaceful process and stop

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it by all means possible. Who then is sowing the seeds of disturbances in the Palestinian cause: Egypt or Iran?

In my view, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements reflect only one thing: the state of confusion and severe crisis afflicting Iranian policy. It is not strange then, in view of this situation, to see Hashemi-Rafsanjani shooting his poisoned arrows left and right, refusing to recognize that the grinding crises facing his country internally and externally are the result of this reckless policy adopted by the country's ruling regime and that will continue to isolate the regime and make the international community reject it.

Why doesn't Hashemi-Rafsanjani direct his disappointment and his country's and regime's crises in any direction other than Egypt's? Why doesn't he search for a serious solution to his country's suffocating crises instead of turning these hatreds, accusations, and odd blunders into issues that are very remote from his country's real problems?

Iraq, Sudan Said Using 'Blackmail' To Divide Arabs

NC2109072894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says that while some voices still call for closing Arab ranks so that the Arab nation can stand up to immense challenges and developments, some Arab regimes are using blackmail to divide Arab ranks.

In its editorial today, the paper says these regimes completely ignore the interests of their own peoples. In this respect, the paper refers to the conduct of the Sudanese and Iraqi regimes, which still believe that slander campaigns can be useful.

This conduct, asserts AL-AKHBAR, will result only in further isolation of these two regimes. The paper says Egypt will maintain its composure and strong nerves regardless of the practices of the authorities in Khartoum and Baghdad.

Libya

Jallud Said Under 'Semi-House Arrest'

MM2109093094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil: "Jallud Loses His Passport Following Dispute Between Himself and al-Qadhdhafi"]

[Text] London—Well-informed Arab sources in London have revealed to AL-HAYAH that the Libyan authorities "have confiscated the passport of Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who is now under semi-house arrest following the escalation in the dispute between him and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

The sources also said that "the disagreements began to emerge openly between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud after a Palestinian delegation visited Jerusalem on orders from al-Qadhdhafi. Jallud vehemently objected to the visit, and his objection was well received by nationalist elements in Libya, who called him 'the conscience of the revolution.' This angered al-Qadhdhafi and alerted him to the seriousness of this situation. Especially as Jallud refused to resume his duties in protest at the visit in question."

The sources added that "al-Qadhdhafi was anxious to contain any developments in Jallud's position and to circumvent its results, so he hastened to meet with him at the popular resort [al-masif al-baladi]. It was announced after this meeting that they were in total agreement. But Maj. Jallud said that he agreed with al-Qadhdhafi on one thing only, namely that he was going to submit a memorandum to explain his view of the overall situation in the country."

The sources said that Maj. Jallud submitted his memorandum as agreed, explaining the dimensions of the problems facing Libya. His memorandum, which al-Qadhdhafi rejected, said: "I had thought that the entourage around you was the cause of all the homeland's suffering. But I am now certain that you yourself are the cause of all that."

The sources pointed out that "al-Qadhdhafi saw Jallud's memorandum and his positions as a very serious indication, especially as Jallud supporters had leaked some parts of the memorandum." The sources stressed that Jallud's passport was withdrawn "after it was learned that he was insisting on the need to make the changes mentioned in his memorandum."

Talks Begin With Thai Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2009222194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Libyan-Thai talks opened this evening in Tripoli. At the talks the scope for cooperation in all fields between the two countries will be discussed.

The under secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Thai Deputy Foreign Minister (Maurin Betswan) attended the talks.

The under secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation welcomed the deputy foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. He stated the importance of developing cooperation between the two countries in all sectors to serve their interests.

Thailand's deputy foreign minister expressed his happiness and that of his delegation at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. He confirmed his country's desire to bolster cooperation in various respects with the Great Jamahiriyah in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The deputy foreign minister expressed his country's solidarity and support for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust measures imposed by Western states through the so-called Security Council.

Arab States Should 'Drop Unfair Sanctions'

LD2009211994 Tripoli JANA in English 1640 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fateh [September] 20 (JANA)— The daily newspaper AL-SHAMS has confirmed that the only

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viable option for Arab states, in the so-called Lockerbie case, is to drop the unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah and to announce their rejection to implement it, to open their spaces for Libyan airliners to release the Libyan assets deposited with them and this will provide a real evidence for Arab support and solidarity and thus shifting the resolution from the files and dossier to the living reality.

The paper confirmed in an article today that if this is not done then the [UN] Security Council could not penalize all Arabs. The Security Council and those behind it will, therefore, find themselves obliged to respect the Arab nation.

Security Council Called 'Flexible Tool' of U.S.

LD2109084494 Tripoli JANA in English 0804 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] New York, al-Fateh [September] 21, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The so-called Security Council has postponed the discussion aimed at dropping the sanctions imposed on Haiti, despite the American military occupation of Haiti and the imposition of American domination over the state. The council did not fix any further date for the discussion of the issue which it had previously linked to the American military invasion, in the decision passed by the American government through the council which had been used as a cover to implement the aggressive American policies over the nations of the world.

Observers believe that this measure confirms that the so-called Security Council has become a flexible tool in the hands of the American government which is intent on humiliating the Haitian people. It also confirms that the United Nations has lost its credibility and its raison d'etre, as the world has been transformed into a jungle where the strong kills the weak. It confirms furthermore that America is a state without morals and without conscience.

JANA International Editor on Lockerbie Proposals

LD2109083294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Sep (JANA)—The CIA radio known as the Voice of America has reiterated a number of unfounded accusations and allegations against the two Libyan citizens on the incident of the crash of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie and the crash of the French UTA airliner over Niger.

JANA international affairs editor has commented on this by saying that "this radio deliberately and (?intentionally) ignores the practical initiatives made by the Great Jamahiriyah to find a peaceful solution to the so-called Lockerbie case based on the strength of law. The whole world through its governments realises that (?the United States), England, and France were the ones that obstructed the international community from reaching a peaceful and just solution to the so-called Lockerbie crisis by rejecting and ignoring all appeals and proposals issued by the international organizations, particularly the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement organization, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization, in addition to China and India, which between them represent one-third of the population of the world, and the State of the Vatican. However this disregard by the three states reveals the true premeditated hostile intentions against the Libyan Arab people."

The JANA editor added: "As far as the French airliner is concerned, the Great Jamahiriyah still expresses its readiness to welcome a French investigating magistrate and to enable him to complete his investigations and to offer him all the guarantees that may help him complete his task on condition that he come to the Great Jamahiriyah in a civilised manner free from any flexing of muscles, which is rejected."

Regarding the issue of international terrorism, the JANA editor points out that the Great Jamahiriyah not only condemns and rejects terrorism, but also considers itself, by virtue of evidence, as being one of the victims of such terrorism. Perhaps the most prominent evidence of this is the fascist, barbaric American military aggression against the Libyan Arab people in 1986, which involved official state terrorism, as America poured its bombs on children, women, and the aged while they slept. That was met by extensive international condemnation and criticism; the imposition of unjust measures is another form of international terrorism to which the Great Jamahiriyah is being subjected.

The editor concluded by saying that if the three Western states wish to reach a peaceful settlement in line with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, they should respond to the peaceful proposals, especially the proposals of the Arab League, which were put forward in this connection.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns, Says Unity Not Negotiable

EA2009184694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has reiterated that Sudan's unity is not negotiable and that Sudan's proposal on relations between the state and religion cannot be bargained over. He pointed out that the government is not talking about separating religion from the state, but rather about the relationship between religion and the state.

In a press statement issued on his return to the country today after attending the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] summit in Nairobi, Kenya, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the government's declaration of a cease-fire is temporary and connected to the talks.

Answering reporters, his excellency the president of the republic said some of the IGADD states are not neutral. Referring to recent statements by Ugandan President

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Yoweri Museveni, he said they disqualify him from being a member of the mediating committee. The president announced that Museveni could not be a mediator while at the same time calling on the international community to impose sanctions on Sudan. He said the IGADD presidents are convinced that the past four rounds of talks in Nairobi did not succeed and that they reached a dead end. He said the IGADD committee had disregarded what had been agreed upon at Abuja and had come up with new principles. He also said that the committee issued a statement making accusations against the government, adding that Sudan considers these as errors on the part of the IGADD committee.

Concerning the declaration of principles which the IGADD committee considers as the basis for the talks, his excellency the president announced that no principles were unanimously agreed upon. He pointed out that what was agreed upon at Abuja did not include the issues of self-determination or the separation of state from religion. On the contrary, what was agreed upon, he said, was the unity of the country and the resolution of the southern problem within the framework of a united Sudan.

SPLM Adviser Says Government Not Serious on Peace

NC2109092794 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 15 - 21 Dec p 5

[Interview with Dr. Mansur Khalid, adviser to the SPLM, by Muhammad Salih, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Salih] In your estimation, how serious is the Sudanese government about reaching a peaceful settlement?

[Khalid] We doubt very much the seriousness of the Islamic National Front (INF) regime for a peaceful settlement to the ongoing civil war in southern Sudan. This is because the regime is ideologically based on an Islamic image based on domination. It is not possible for such a regime to come to an agreement with a movement that believes in inclusion and not exclusion. This regime is working hard to create the image of a peace loving regime while their real intention is the military solution. They believe that they will win an overwhelming military victory in the ongoing war. SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] is aware of that, but we accepted all the mediations.

The Inter-governmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD) was invited by the Sudanese government to mediate and it came out with a statement of principles which is based on conditional unity in Sudan to restructure the economy and culture, respective [as published] of the specificity of the different regions of Sudan and their cultures.

These principles were not accepted by the government, who rephrased the principles and suggested changes in the modality.

The INF regime, despite its policy failures and lack of sensitivity to the public, has its agenda for the region and moreover for the whole world—they are preparing themselves for a global mission. This is certainly worrying many neighbouring countries. In Eritrea and Ethiopia, the government is supporting fundamentalist elements which they created themselves. They also had a hand in the Somalia conflict and other activities in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Southern Africa. The issue is no longer a secret, the regime is not welcomed by any of the neighbouring countries.

[Salih] How deeply is the opposition in the north involved in the conflict between the government and the SPLM?

[Khalid] The SPLM is concerned with the world wide image that the conflict is the SPLM versus the government. We believe that this image is created by the government and it is also trying to convince the world that there is no organised opposition in north Sudan. But this is not true as we have records of the uprisings in different towns in north Sudan. However the masses in the North must be more organised and sustained. We are working together with the other political forces in the northern Sudan to achieve more coherence in the work of the opposition in the direction of overthrowing the existing INF government. [passage omitted]

The humanitarian situation in southern Sudan is a troublesome issue. The regime has escalated its use of aerial bombardment, primarily against civilian targets. These air strikes have succeeded only in displacing large numbers of civilians inside and outside Sudan. A lot of countries and organisations are helping and we are appreciative. But Arab institutions are absent in this humanitarian effort. If Arabs are concerned with the unity of Sudan, they should translate this concern in a practical way, into efforts that can be seen on the ground.

Tunisia

Sixty Moroccans Arrested in Emigration Attempt

LD2009183494 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] In Tunisia, some 60 Moroccan nationals have been arrested. They were caught last week as they were about to set to sea to enter Italy clandestinely. Rida Boughezi reports from Tunis:

[Begin Boughezi recording] The 60 Moroccans or so who have been arrested, including, apparently, the brains of the network, have been transferred to a reception center in El Wardia, near Tunis, pending the outcome of negotiations about them with the Moroccan Embassy for their possible repatriation. Reliable sources in Tunis have strongly denied that these clandestine emigrants had been transferred to prison.

As a matter of fact, this is not the first time Moroccan nationals have been caught in the act of crossing borders illegally. Clandestine immigration to Italy—by sea on board makeshift boats or fishing trawlers chartered in return for large sums of money, in most cases with the collusion of Tunisian traffickers—has kept the Tunisian

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Navy on the alert for more than two years. It is nevertheless a fact that the Moroccan emigrants have never been prosecuted. The Tunisian authorities have always preferred to repatriate them without trial given the special relationship between Tunis and Rabat.

Paradoxically this attitude has led to a hostile campaign against Tunisia in the Moroccan press, which did not appreciate the fact that its clandestine nationals had been put on board the special ship which was supposed to repatriate those Moroccans stranded in Tunisia after the closure of the border between Algeria and Morocco a fortnight ago. The Tunisian independent press reacted, accusing its Moroccan counterpart of making a distinction between good and bad Moroccans. However, since then, the controversy seems to have been replaced by diplomacy. [end recording]

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Kuwait

Amir Holds Talks With Pakistani President

BK2009144594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Formal talks were held between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in Kuwait today. The talks lasted for one and half hours during which they discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues. The talks also focused on further cementing the existing bonds of friendship between the two brotherly Muslim countries. The president apprised the amir of Kuwait on the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Indian-held Kashmir due to the reign of terror unleashed by 600,000 Indian troops. The amir of Kuwait assured the president of Kuwait's continued support for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. Situations in Afghanistan and Bosnia also came under discussion. President Leghari and the amir of Kuwait also discussed bilateral issues and the scope of enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

POW Chairman Denies Accepting Iraqi Initiative

LD2009211894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2007 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POWs and Missing Persons, has categorically denied news reports here today of Kuwait having agreed to an initiative of the Iraqi regime on setting up a committee to examine and investigate the fate of the Kuwaitis whom it is detaining.

At a meeting with Kuwaiti journalists at their association headquarters, Shaykh Salim explained that what the State of Kuwait agreed to was the proposal to establish a committee of a purely technical nature which would be a subcommittee of the tripartite international committee concerned with investigating the tragedy of the Kuwaiti POWs, which had been set up in accordance with the UN resolutions related to the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim also denied that Kuwait had received any Jordanian letter stating that Amman was prepared to exert efforts aimed at helping to give impetus to the issue of Kuwaiti nationals detained by the Iraqi regime in order to settle it. [passage omitted]

Government May Write Off Egypt's, Syria's Debts

LD2109110794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, 21 Sep (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Government today submitted a bill to the National Assembly stipulating the writing off of 918,665,000 Kuwaiti dinars—about $3.92 billion which represents Egypt's and Syria's debts to Kuwait and the accumulated interest on the debts of some developing countries.

The bill's explanatory memorandum, a copy of which has been obtained by KUNA, says that Egypt's share of these debts is about 825 million Kuwaiti dinars, while Syria's share amounts to approximately 38 million Kuwaiti dinars. The remainder is distributed among eight developing countries, namely Pakistan, Chad, Guyana, Zambia, Senegal, Somalia, and Guinea. [passage omitted]

The memorandum points out that writing off Egypt's and Syria's debts to Kuwait affirms pan-Arab ties and strengthens the fraternal Arab links between Kuwait and the two Arab states and comes from Kuwait's desire to help move forward the wheel of economic development in the two Arab states. [passage omitted]

It is expected that the bill will be placed on the agenda of the first session of the Assembly which begins in November.

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Congratulations Received on National Day

LD2009202994 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 20, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud has received a cable of congratulation from the U.S. President Bill Clinton on the occasion of the National Day anniversary of the Kingdom.

President Clinton, on behalf of the the American people, expressed the heartfelt compliments and good wishes to King Fahd and the Saudi people.

"As the 50th anniversary of the historical meeting between late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud and President Roosevelt is nearing, let me seize this opportunity to highlight the big contributions resulted from the Saudi/American cooperation to maintain regional security and stability," President Clinton said and expressed hope that the fruitful cooperation between the two nations would continue and enable the two countries to undertake the mutual obligations towards peace in the Middle East, regional stability and economic development.

Replying [to] the cable, King Fahd expressed thanks and appreciation to President Clinton and praised the friendly feelings of the U.S. people towards the Saudi people on the occasion of the National Day.

King Fahd, for his own part and on behalf of the Saudi people, thanked President Clinton for the cordial feelings expressed in the cable and agreed with the president that the Saudi/U.S. distinguished ties remained strong since the historical meeting of late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Roosevelt and effectively contributed to peace and stability of the region. He said the mutual interests and objectives of the two countries would necessitate continuation of these ties to realise a comprehensive and constructive cooperation on all fields.

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Yemen

Foreign Minister Wants Coup Leaders Tried

MM2009160994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Basindwah: Sanaa Insists on Bringing 'Coup Leaders' to Trial"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—[passage omitted] In Cairo, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has urged Arab states "not to allow the so-called [Yemeni] opposition to violate the rules on political asylum." He stressed that "the increase in the opposition's activities will adversely affect Yemen's relations with the states allowing these activities."

The Yemeni minister told AL-HAYAH during a visit to Egypt that "Every state is entitled to grant political asylum, but interference in Yemeni internal affairs is unacceptable."

Basindwah stressed "the legitimate Yemeni authority's insistence on bringing Socialist Party coup leaders to trial." He said that "the issue of requesting their extradition is under discussion."

He added that, "if the rebel leaders return, they will get a fair trial from the Yemeni judiciary." He said that "the losses caused by the rebel leaders exceed billions [currency not specified]." He pointed out that "Yemen needs substantial aid, especially from international funds and friendly and fraternal states in order to rebuild what the war has destroyed." [passage omitted]

Party Congress Calls For Islamic Democracy

NC2009181794 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Report by Hammud Munassar]

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 20 (AFP)—The Muslim fundamentalist party Al-Islah opened its first general congress here Tuesday [20 September] with a call for democracy along Islamic lines and in alliance with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Its leader and speaker of parliament, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, appealed for "national unity" after the May-July civil war in which northern troops defeated a southern rebellion.

But he urged vigilance against secessionists in the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). "The forces which plotted against national unity have not lost hope and will try to sow sedition around the country," Shaykh al-Ahmar warned.

He told around 3,000 delegates and guests, including YSP leaders and officials of the General People's Congress (GPC) of Salih, that Al-Islah would respect the democratic process.

"Al-Islah is committed to the path of democracy, based on the Shura," or Islamic consultation, the party's leader said.

Seeking to allay the fears of other parties, he vowed Al-Islah would respect the multi-party system in force since the country was unified in May 1990 and "rejects violence, terrorism and recourse to violence in political action."

A senior GPC official, meanwhile, said his party and Al-Islah were forming an alliance to build a new ruling coalition.

The alliance would be based on "cooperation and complementarity, rather than confrontation," said 'Abd-al-Aziz 'Abd-al Ghani, referring to the YSP which Salih has said would be dropped from the next government.

Most YSP leaders fled into exile upon the fall of their southern stronghold of Aden on July 7 and the party has elected a new leadership while refusing to evict the exiles.

The Al-Islah congress has already been delayed twice, the first time in spring because of a political crisis between the YSP and GPC ahead of the war and again last week because of a key debate in parliament.

The debate, suspended on Monday until Saturday, focuses on an Al-Islah proposal for Islamic law to become the sole legislative basis instead of a "main source" of Yemeni law.

The party also wants to replace the current five-member presidential council with a president elected by parliament, a proposal which would evict socialist members from the country's highest political body.

Al-Islah, strengthened by its alliance with the GPC, has emerged from the civil war aiming to increase its influence and capitalise on the defeat of the socialists, its arch-rivals.

The party was set up in September 1990, after the former conservative North and Marxist South Yemen were merged in May of the same year. Its aim was to counter the growing alliance between the GPC and YSP.

Leaders from the Muslim Brotherhood and the most powerful tribes in the north are the driving force behind Al-Islah, allied with some of Yemen's leading conservative traders.

Initially part of the opposition, the party entered the ruling coalition with the GPC and YSP in elections in April 1993, when it won 62 seats in the 301-seat parliament, overtaking the socialists as the second-largest party.

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UK Sources Report Meeting Held With Israel

MS1809092294 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Sep 94 p 18

[Report by David Leppard: "Iraq and Israel in Secret Summit"]

[Text] Israel and Iraq have held secret talks in Morocco in an attempt to draw up a peace treaty between the two nations—traditionally among the Middle East's most bitter enemies.

Previous reports of Iraqi-Israeli contacts have been denied, but Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, M16, has been told that senior ministers from Israel and Iraq met last month to discuss an "accommodation" in Rabat, the Moroccan capital.

M16 sources say the meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, and senior Israeli officials. They say the Israeli delegation was led by Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, the Israeli housing minister, and one other Israeli, possibly Moshe Shahal, minister for police and oil. Both are Iraqi- born Jews.

Security officials say the peace summit is the latest in a series of meetings between the two sides which have been brokered by Moroccan diplomats at the United Nations.

The initiative is believed to have begun last year, shortly after the peace treaty between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was finalised in Cairo.

'Aziz is understood to have sent a message to Gad Ya'aqobi, the Israeli ambassador at the UN in New York, calling for "the two states to open a new chapter... Saddam Husayn no longer considers the Jewish state as an enemy country since the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord".

'Aziz is understood to have flown to Rabat after meeting Jordanian ministers in Amman on August 14. He is said to have suggested to the Israeli delegation that Iraq would consider formally recognising Kuwait's borders if Israel put pressure on America to lift the sanctions imposed on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait.

In exchange, Israel is hoping to obtain a contract for cheap oil from Baghdad. The two sides are also understood to have discussed the fate of 400,000 Palestinian refugees presently in Lebanon.

On the same weekend as the Rabat meeting, an Israeli newspaper reported that unidentified senior figures from both countries had met in Europe in July and that America had asked Israel to cease the contacts. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli prime minister said no contacts had been sanctioned. Iraq denied seeking contact with Israel.

Shahal said at the time that the United States could not dictate foreign policy towards Iraq. "Israel cannot allow itself to cut off co-ordination with the United States," he said. "It doesn't mean we cannot express our comments and reservations regarding the Iraqi option if there is one."

During the Gulf war Iraq launched 31 missiles at Israel killing several civilians and leading to fears that Saddam would launch a chemical attack. But Israeli leaders are now concerned about Iran's recent reported efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Some are thought to be keen to help neutralise the Iranian threat by developing ties with Iraq.

Efforts to draw Iraq into the Middle East peace process are already being made by some members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament. 'Abd-al al-Wahab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic party has proposed leading an Arab-Israeli delegation to Baghdad.

Syria Offers to Intervene With U.S. on Sanctions

JN2109093594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 20-21 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs editor]

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has disclosed that a secret meeting was held recently between Tariq 'Aziz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the meeting, Syria offered to intervene with the United States to lift the economic sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq since 1990 in exchange for incorporating Iraq into the multilateral talks with Israel, for its agreement on the bilateral talks being held between the confrontation states and Israel, and for not condemning Syria's participation in the Madrid conference. This statement was made during Ramadan's meeting with a popular Jordanian delegation consisting of Jordanian unionists and politicians.

In a statement to AKHIR KHABAR, sources in the delegation cited Ramadan as saying that Iraq rejected the offer because it said Syria should assume its pan-Arab role by helping to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and not by asking Iraq to make concessions that do not serve the Arab nation or bilateral relations. Syria, Ramadan added, must play its pan-Arab role without expecting anything in return and without trying to twist the arm of Iraq, which rejects this method and refuses to become a card in Syria's hand at the negotiating table.

Ramadan said that the attempt to portray Iraq as an obstacle to peace—which is sought by all and which the external world views with great optimism—will make Iraq's efforts to lift the sanctions more difficult.

Ramadan informed the Jordanian delegation that, at Syria's request, Arab and foreign pressure has been brought to bear on Iraq so that it will not condemn the Syrian stand vis-a-vis the [Arab-Israeli] negotiations. Ramadan said that, so far, Iraq has not condemned anybody or any party to the talks, adding that Iraq does not want to be burdened with what it cannot tolerate or increase the international terms required to lift the sanctions. He said that Iraq rejects this process, which comes under the unilateral U.S. hegemony over the world.

Ramadan's statements come amid reports that Syria has completed all the suspended matters on its negotiating track, but that it links the signing of a peace treaty to incorporating Iraq into the negotiations.

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French Parliamentary Group Continues Visit

Leader Meets Saddam

JN2009203394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received (Jean Lacasse), a French parliamentarian and head of the [French] parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Received by Party Official

JN2009164594 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 20, INA—Director of Foreign Relations Bureau of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, separately met here French MP (member of parliament], Jean Lacasse, and Romanian MP, Alfis Simon [name as received], and the two accompanying delegations.

During the two meetings, Mr. al-Hashimi explained to the guest figures negative effects of the oppressive embargo imposed on Iraqi people. He affirmed that it claimed lives of thousands of Iraqi children, women and old men.

Mr. al-Hashimi called upon the friendly organizations and associations to intensify their efforts for lifting the unjust embargo imposed on Iraqi people.

For their parts, the two figures denounced the ongoing embargo imposed since 1990. They affirmed that they would work for mobilizing the public opinion in their arenas to lift the unjust embargo expressing their countries keeness to develop relations with Iraq.

Received by Trade Minister

JN2009203094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has met with a French parliamentary delegation led by Jean Lacasse, a member of both the French National Assembly and the European Parliament.

During the meeting, the trade minister reviewed the repercussions the continued blockade is having on the lives of the Iraqi people due to the acute shortage of food, medicine, and other necessities. He also gave a detailed briefing on the aggressors' destruction of the trade installations and warehouses and on the Trade Ministry's efforts to reconstruct them using local materials.

Lacasse saluted the Iraqis' steadfastness under the blockade and their insistence on continuing the reconstruction despite the difficult circumstances from which they are suffering in general as a result of the continued unfair blockade.

Confer With Defense Minister

JN2009204594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today received a French parliamentary delegation led by (Jean Lacasse), a member of both the French National Assembly and the European Parliament, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the defense minister reviewed the repercussions of the continued unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and its negative impact on their lives due to the acute shortage of food, medicine, and other necessities. He urged the French Parliament to intensify its efforts and activities in France and to coordinate with the political parties to exert pressure designed to lift the blockade on the Iraqi people.

Lacasse stated that the French parliamentary delegation will do its best to restore Iraqi-French relations to normal. It will also try to mobilize the French public in an attempt to prompt the French Government to call for international pressure and the lifting of the blockade on the Iraqi people.

'Aziz Confers With French Envoy in New York

JN2009202594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 20 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here today with French [UN] Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee.

The INA correspondent in New York said the meeting, which lasted one and a half hours, was held at the headquarters of the French mission at the United Nations.

Former French Military Chief Urges End to Embargo

BR2109102994 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan had a meeting in Baghdad yesterday with Jeannou Lacaze, former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, who called for a lifting of the international embargo on Iraq. Mr. Lacaze said that French enterprises were "prepared

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to carry out projects in Iraq" and promised to "work toward restoring Iraqi-French relations to normal."

UK's Major Assailed Over 'Rabid Remarks'

JN2109084894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi journalist has said that John Major's rabid remarks against Iraq, in which he sought to curry favor with Saudi Arabia to obtain assistance, will not affect the growing international understanding of Iraq's stand on the UN Security Council resolutions.

Major lauded British-Saudi military coordination during the Saudi-fueled separatist attempt in Yemen, reminiscent of their continuous coordination in the treacherous 30-state aggression on Iraq.

None of this, however, will get Major anywhere, since the United Sates has beaten him to Saudi and other Gulf money, leaving none left to save him from crashing, said Hadi Tu'mah in an article published today by AL-THAWRAH in the "Stand" column.

Heavily indebted Saudi Arabia will not bail out his government or save his career; nor will flattering Saudi Arabia and attacking Iraq.

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Rabin on Syria, Palestinian Elections, Baraq

TA1909123594 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] "I invite President al-Asad to come to Jerusalem," says Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a special interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR to be published next weekend. Rabin adds: "I have already invited al-Asad several times, both officially and through the Americans, but he has refused to come." In the interview Rabin also says the Syrian president is against secret bilateral negotiations. Secret negotiations are being held, however, via American mediation.

In the interview Rabin also divulges how the public referendum should be phrased once an agreement is achieved with Syria. Reacting to Likud Chairman Netanyahu's demand that the question be formulated with the Likud, Rabin says: "There will be one question. Are you for or against a peace treaty with Syria according to the following specified conditions relating to withdrawal stages: depth and duration of withdrawal; the relationship between the initial minor withdrawal and the normalization that will be implemented in its wake and be subsequently tested for three years. This will be followed by an additional withdrawal to the specified line in conjunction with security arrangements. The question will be: are you for or against peace at such a price?"

The prime minister notes that a referendum bill has still not been submitted to the Knesset, but once this happens he hopes it will be possible to expeditiously pass it through all the readings, "and whoever opposes a referendum will prove he is afraid of the public's decision."

"I can understand there being different opinions, but if we make it clear that a referendum is to be held, I do not understand what the fear is. What is more democratic than submitting such an issue to a referendum."

In comparison Rabin cites Menahem Begin's peace agreement. Despite his declarations on the eve of elections, Begin reached the agreement without holding a referendum.

Answering a question on the date for elections in the territories, Rabin says this is a lengthy process: "Each stage must be negotiated. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not redeploy before a date is set for the elections and their format is decided. This format includes who is elected and what happens the day after elections. It is impossible to proceed on the basis of slogans."

Reacting to the Palestinian demand that elections be held during October or November, Rabin emphasizes: "They are entitled to raise this. In fact, it has already been decided that the unofficial negotiations on this issue will start late this month. If no agreement is reached regarding all the stages preceding elections, however, it will be impossible to hold the elections."

Regarding relations between Labor and Hayim Ramon and his group—who ran on an independent list for the Histadrut labor federation elections—Rabin says he has no intentions of discussing Ramon's and his colleagues' political future, but he hopes that all of those who left Labor will find the way back to the party. He does not believe, however, that this is simple or easy to work out in the immediate future.

Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has still not officially decided who will be the next chief of staff: "I have not reached an official decision, nor will I make up my mind before I speak with for or five major generals and before that with the chief of staff. Only then will I reach a decision." Regarding the political future of outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Rabin says: "I will not speak with a man in uniform about his political future." Recently it was reported that Rabin intends to appoint Ehud Baraq in charge of the peace process, a post parallel to that held by Dennis Ross in the U.S. Administration. Rabin refuses to comment on this issue, settling for a general statement: "Hitherto there has not been such a post and I am not aware that a need for such a post has arisen."

Peres: Peace Gives More Security Than Entire Golan

TA2109092394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[Excerpts] The hunger strike by Golan Heights residents is "an undemocratic act aimed at influencing and determining policy by undemocratic means," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told a joint session of his party's political bureau and Knesset faction on Monday. [passage omitted]

Peres went on to argue that the real danger the opposition to ceding the Golan is creating "is implanting doubts in Syrian minds that the Israeli government has a majority and that it can make deals and live up to them." This, according to Peres, "could effectively end the entire process. Is this what protesters want—to prevent the government from pressing on with its peace program?"

He maintained that "peace with Syria affords us more security than the entire Golan does." He noted that "in 19 years not a single Israeli soldier lost his life on the Syrian border, because the Syrians keep their part of the bargain."

When some faction members shouted that Syria is fighting Israelis in Lebanon, Peres countered: "There are no agreements in Lebanon." He then claimed that "the Islamic terror cannot be fought militarily, but by eradicating the hunger which spawns it." [passage omitted]

Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish cautioned all sides that they may be "fighting over an unhatched egg. As things stand, the Syrian position is so uncompromising that the process might not get off the ground at all. The Syrians now want a total withdrawal prior to any normalization, something no Israeli government can agree to. Given this intransigence, we must not dry up the Golan settlements."

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Aloni Call 'Blasted;' Golan Withdrawal Opposed

TA2109092094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Angry Golan Heights hunger strikers blasted Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday for calling for the establishment of new settlements in the Galilee to house displaced residents of the Golan in the event of a peace treaty with Syria.

The attack on Aloni followed a pledge from another member of the government, Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit, to fight any plans to withdraw from the Golan.

Shetrit made his promise when he visited the hunger strikers on Monday at their protest tent overlooking the ancient city of Gamla.

He maintained that demands for a "significant majority" in the Knesset or a referendum over a "significant withdrawal from the Golan" were legitimate and justified in a democratic society.

"I am concerned for the security of Israel and its fate if we come down from the Golan Heights," said Shetrit.

"I denounce all those who negate the legitimacy of demands for a special majority... especially when we are talking about sovereignty. We are talking about the Golan Heights and Jerusalem and other places. Somebody who is prepared to give up Tel Aviv by a vote of 24 against 21 should say so," said Shetrit.

Asked about party discipline, Shetrit said: "Since Hayim Ramon's move, there is no party discipline." [passage omitted]

Envoy Rabinovich on Syria's 'Public Diplomacy'

TA2109073094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Ambassador Rabinovich, what can we learn about the Syrian billboards in support of peace?

[Rabinovich] Syria, which for a long time refused to accept the explanations offered by us, the Americans, and others, that public diplomacy is a positive and vital component of the process, has finally accepted that position and is now operating at an unprecedented pace. The street billboards you refer to are the latest moves in an effort that began last July.

[Raz] Could that be a signal that a development can be expected in the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] It is both a signal and a development. It is aimed primarily at the Syrian public, but also at the Israeli public, and international public opinion. It is one link in a chain. We have now been negotiating for two years at a slow pace, with one development following another, rather than with great dramas. I think it should be seen in that light when considering the future. There are still significant problems dividing us and the Syrians. Even positive developments do not eradicate the issues of substance dividing the two sides. In other words, the negotiations are made up of a series of positive developments, but there are definitely substantial problems still unresolved.

[Raz] If that is the case, the ball is then in Israel's court. Since the Syrians put up billboards, does Israel have to make any move?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think we should live with the feeling that the ball is now in our court. I think that Israel over a long time took many more substantive steps, and we should not have the feeling that we have to reach some point the Syrians have achieved, because that is definitely not the case. There is no pressure on us to do that.

[Raz] What is the next stage in public diplomacy? Perhaps some meeting?

[Rabinovich] There are a series of steps. Even when we talk about positive moves, such as President al-Asad's recent speech or the placards you referred to, we have to put them into the right proportions. We have to remember that in the negotiations with Egypt, at a very early stage, President al-Sadat came here, and invited the late Prime Minister Begin to visit Egypt long before there was any agreement. In other words, the al-Sadat visit to Israel took place in November 1977 and the Camp David accord was achieved only in September 1978. So when you gauge the developments on the same scale, they take on the proper proportions.

[Raz] What then is the chance of a public meeting at the highest level, whether in Israel, Syria, or the United States?

[Rabinovich] I think that for the negotiations we are immersed in to reach the desired results, such a meeting will have to take place, and the sooner the better.

[Raz] Is there already something in hand?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think we are presently discussing such plans.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 21 September in a page-2 report by Nehama Dowek and Smadar Peri quotes Prof. Rabinovich, in Israel, as saying "yesterday" that "efforts are being made to bring about a public meeting and handshake between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' via a U.S. mediator at the UN General Assembly, which convenes in early October." It quotes, however, Jerusalem sources as saying that "it is still too early for optimism."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 21 September carries a short interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Qobi Mandel at the Haifa Film Festival on 20 September. In a recorded passage, Peres says "it is clear that there is a firm desire for peace, but there is no obvious way to achieve it." Asked about reports about secret negotiations with the Syrians, Peres replies: "There are no secret negotiations, there are meetings between ambassadors, such things."]

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Right-Wing Group Calls For Rabin Assassination

TA2109083294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Sep 94 p 9

[Report by Itamar Eichner]

[Text] "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin must die." This statement was made by the right-wing Herev David [David's Sword] organization in a leaflet found last weekend near the Qiryat Arba' grave of Dr. Barukh Goldstein, the Cave of the Patriarchs murderer.

The organization, whose size and leaders are unknown, describes Rabin in the leaflet as "a tyrant and a traitor" and calls for his assassination.

The Herev David organization had in the past claimed responsibility for several cases in which Arabs were murdered, including the murder of East Jerusalem cab driver 'Awda Abu-Sunayna on 1 July. Current Qiryat Arba' detainees from the right-wing cell are now under interrogation concerning their involvement in this murder.

About a month ago, settlement leaders Aharon Domb and Yehi'el Leiter warned that radical Jewish elements might attempt to assassinate a senior government figure.

Herev David's latest leaflet against Rabin states: "A treacherous tyrant by the name of Yitzhaq Rabin, one of our people, has appeared in Erez Yisra'el. This traitor wants to bring about a catastrophic war, God forbid. This traitor is renouncing responsibility for the lives of Eretz Yisra'el Jews, and particularly of the heroic residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.... This traitor wants to sell the holy city of Jerusalem. This traitor has cultivated the arch-killer and bestowed legitimacy and a right to Eretz Yisra'el on him and his murderous organization. This traitor has released thousands of murderers and incarcerated Jews. And for that, he should die! And we, the Herev David organization, call on the people to rise against the government of destruction in every way!"

Curfew Imposed on West Bank Village After Rioting

TA2109094194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the village of Biddu in the Ramallah region after its residents started to riot to protest the death of a youth killed by IDF fire at the al-Ram junction north of Jerusalem. The soldiers shot at the youth after he tried to pass through the roadblock without permission and did not heed the calls to halt.

IDF Fires at Glider Infiltrator From Jordan

TA2109105094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] There was an attempt to infiltrate from Jordan with a glider in the Allenby bridge area this morning. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers noticed the glider and fired at it. It is still not clear if the glider was hit and where it is now.

IDF Kills Youth Crossing Roadblock

TA2009154494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] A young villager from Biddu was killed this afternoon by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire as he tried to cross the roadblock at al-Ram north of Jerusalem without permission.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the youth and his friend drove up in a car, stepped out of the vehicle, and attempted to cross the roadblock on foot. The soldiers ordered the youths to halt. When their command was ignored, the soldiers fired at them. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the youth was wounded and evacuated to the hospital in Ramallah where he subsequently died of his injuries. His friend managed to escape.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 20 September reports that "this morning, an explosive charge was hurled at a Border Police patrol in Janin. The charge exploded on the road. There were no casualties or damage. A resident of the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus was shot and seriously wounded last night by masked men."]

Defense Official Visits Thailand, Philippines

TA2109084894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Sep 94 p A6

[Report by defense correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Excerpt] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has made working visits to Thailand and the Philippines to improve the defense relations between Israel and these countries. He met with the two countries' defense ministers and army chiefs in a bid to examine possibilities of cooperation. [passage omitted]

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Prime Minister: Peace Moves 'Saved the Kingdom'

JN2009111294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] (J.T.)—Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, fending off the Syrian and Lebanese criticism of the Kingdom's accelerated peace moves with Israel, said the peace process had saved the Kingdom from serious trouble caused by its post-Gulf crisis isolation.

Dr. al-Majali told a Sunday night dinner for businessmen the process had helped rehabilitate Jordan following the crisis over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, restored its regional role and saved its economy from further collapse.

"Doubtless to say, Jordan's entry into the process saved it from big trouble. Our future was in jeopardy," Dr. al-Majali said.

"Do you remember what our situation was like after the Gulf war ended?" he asked. "We were isolated and under siege. We faced tough conditions and a situation where we hardly found a brother to lean on or anyone who would help us."

A sluggish economy, soaring foreign debt and rising unemployment and poverty further worsened the situation, he said.

Syria and Lebanon, whose three-year-old talks with Israel have stalled, have criticised Jordan for signing a declaration with Israel in Washington on July 25 ending 46 years of belligerency between them.

"They said that we went ahead unilaterally," Dr. al-Majali said. "What are they talking about? If anything, we were the last party to walk out on Arab coordination."

Dr. al-Majali stressed that through the peace negotiations Jordan has been able to transform its demands for its legitimate lands and waters into a live issue around which the whole negotiating process now revolves.

"But let it be known to all, Jordan will never sign a peace treaty with Israel without securing its clear borders that ensure the restoration of all its usurped territory and without the restoration of its rights in the waters of Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers," he said.

However, he added, the attainment of peace does not mean an end to the state of war only. It also meant the emergence of a situation that opens the door for economic cooperation that helps Jordan to confront challenges.

Referring to relations with Palestine, Dr. al-Majali said that any Jordanian peace without the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights remains a lame peace and a Palestinian peace without Jordan remains a peace under Israel's tutelage.

Jordan would not accept any arrangement for confederation with Palestine except when it is emanating from the free will of the Palestinian people.

Jordan, added the prime minister, will help the Palestinians to regain their full rights, including the right to self-determination, after which the peoples in Jordan and Palestine can decide their future with their own free will.

House Deputy Issues Fatwa on Peace With Israel

JN2009123094 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 21 Sep 94 p 2

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] It seems that the Islamic deputies [in the Jordanian House of Representatives] are bent on combating the restrictions imposed by the official bodies, including the Ministry of Awqaf, to prevent them from preaching in mosques or pronouncing fatwas [religious ruling] prohibiting Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. Deputy Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani has recently released a fatwa via fax stating that recognizing Israel, making peace with it, or establishing economic and other relations with it will be a cause for God's wrath and punishment and will be tantamount to a horrendous crime that jeopardizes Islamic existence, Judaizes Palestine and Jerusalem, and achieves Israel's historical goal of demolishing the al-Aqsa Mosque and erecting the alleged temple.

According to the fiery statement he disseminated, al-Kilani's fatwa came in the wake of information that many Jordanian merchants have received invitations by fax from Jewish companies, merchants, and businessmen, offering commercial, industrial, and tourist cooperation, in addition to other economic activities.

As many people were wondering about the legality of these proposed contacts, al-Kilani took upon himself the task of issuing this fatwa, in which he cited the following Koranic verse to substantiate his argument: "God only forbids you, with regard to those who fight you for your faith, and drive you out of your homes, and support others in driving you out, from turning to them for friendship and protection. It is such as turn to them (in these circumstances) that do wrong."

It will be noted that al-Kilani is not the first deputy to issue a fatwa invalidating peace with Jews. He was preceded by other deputies and mosque preachers. They were then summoned and interrogated by the security authorities. What draws attention in this regard is that the body that is supposed to issue such a fatwa; namely, the office of the mufti at the Awqaf Ministry, is still silent over this issue. When AL-BILAD asked the mufti about the religious rightfulness of peace [with Israel], he declined to give a clear answer, and accused us of raising issues harmful to Muslims.

Next Round of Talks To Move Inside Israel

JN2109095894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 94, p 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Khattab Salam]

[Excerpt] Amman—The venue of the October round of Jordanian-Israeli peace talks will move for the first time to inland Israel, Foreign Ministry sources said on Tuesday [20 September].

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"The talks will take place on the central city of Herzliyya, overlooking the Mediterrean Sea on Oct. 10 and not as it was announced after the conclusion of the Tiberias round," the sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

Herzliyya is 30 kilometres north of Tel Aviv. The sources added that maybe for the first time the Jordanian press delegation will be allowed to sleep in Israel.

The sources, who preferred not to be identified, noted that during all previous Jordanian-Israeli talks, Jordanian journalists had to come back to Jordanian territories and were not allowed to stay in Israel for "security" reasons. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Leaves for UK, France Visits

JN2009185494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] His majesty the king was at the airport to bid farewell to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan upon his departure for the United Kingdom and France on a several-days visit.

Early next month, his royal highness will deliver Jordan's speech at the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The crown prince will meet with a number of heads of state, who will attend the General Assembly's current session.

His royal highness was also seen off by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah, His Highness Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, Princess Rahmah, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and senior civil and military officials.

His royal highness was accompanied by Princess Badi'ah al-Hasan.

Senate Speaker Returns From IPU Conference

JN2109065594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and parliamentary delegation accompanying him returned to Amman last night after taking part in the meetings of the 92d Interparliamentary Union [IPU] conference held in Copenhagen. [passage omitted]

Paper Commends Participation in Haiti Mission

JN1709131294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "For the Sake of Democracy and International Legitimacy"]

[Text] Despite the double standards and selectivity characterizing the big powers' dealing with world issues pertaining to democracy and international legitimacy, Jordan is addressing these issues in a positive way emanating from convictions pursued on the ground, namely, that democracy is an effective way to achieve domestic security and stability and that international legitimacy is the dividing line between peace and war in foreign relations.

Within this context, Jordan agreed to contribute a group of public security men to the international police forces that will carry out the tasks of observation and extension of humanitarian services to Haiti's people.

The general framework of this Jordanian participation should be explained. First, it is in response to a request by the United Nations, which is the terms of reference of international legitimacy. It is also part of the contributions by 21 states, following contacts by U.S. President Bill Clinton with His Majesty King Husayn. The Jordanian participation is confined to the "civil phase" that will follow the military operations. Finally, this participation is confined to the tasks of observation and the extension of humanitarian services.

Jordanian forces are currently taking part in similar missions in Croatia, Cambodia, and other areas in the world. They enjoy a high reputation for their discipline and noninterference in the internal affairs of the countries concerned. This has prompted all parties in the conflicts in these countries to appreciate the humanitarian role these forces are playing for the sake of democracy and as part of international legitimacy.

Credible Haiti Intervention Needs UN Support

JN1709084694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Not So Convincing"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech to the American people Thursday [15 September] may have won him his people's support for the imminent U.S.-led invasion of Haiti but left him still with some obstacles to clear on the U.S. Congress front. Legislatures in Washington continue to call on the chief executive to seek Congressional approval for his decision to go ahead with military intervention in the Caribbean country. There are still many sceptics in Washington about the rationale behind a verdict in favor of an armed intervention to remove general Raoul Cedras's government and reinstall ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whom the military overthrew in a bloody coup in September of 1991.

President Clinton's case is rather simple and straightforward: End tyranny and gross human rights violations in Port-Au-Prince and restore democracy and respect of basic human rights. The one particular shortcoming of this noble objective lies in the fact that there are many other countries where democracy does not exist and the human rights situation is abysmal. There are countless states in the world, many important U.S. allies where democracy is not heard of and oppression and violation of human rights is the norm rather than the exception. The targeting of Haiti for starting the campaign against undemocratic rule would be justified as long as this campaign is immediately pursued in other parts of the world. As long as Haiti is the beginning and not the end, then there could be greater appreciation of what the U.S. is trying to accomplish in the Caribbean.

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On another front, while Washington's intention to use force in Haiti appears to command general Western support, it lacks parallel sympathy especially from Latin American and Third World countries. It would seem proper, therefore, to present the U.S. case to the U.N. General Assembly when it convenes later this month with a view to gauging the extent of international support, especially from the Latin American continent. We cannot call the impending invasion of Haiti a multinational effort in its scope and dimension as long as the majority of the comity of nations is not part of the supreme decision to take military action against an admittedly oppressive regime. There is every reason to involve the rest of mankind in this solemn and important step since it may be repeated elsewhere in other regions of the world.

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Foreign Minister on Mideast Peace Process

MM2009142794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] It seems that U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Cairo brought many new ideas geared toward making the required progress on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. Did you broach these ideas during your meeting with President Husni Mubarak?

[Buwayz] President Mubarak is following the negotiations closely and carefully, especially in relation to the Lebanese and Syrian files. There is close and extensive consultation between the Egyptian leadership and U.S. and Israeli officials on this, and President Mubarak is always willing to play his important and auxiliary part in the negotiation process. That is why the Lebanese leadership is eager to pursue the issue and consult with Egypt. As far as the Lebanese file is concerned, we have some firm positions in the context of our concept of the peace process. We believe that the issue must be a comprehensive one and that is why, to us Lebanese, a race is out of the question. We believe that any progress must be a balanced one on all fronts. We know that whoever signs first will have to wait until the others complete the process, and they may have to wait "in the full sun." I mean that if the United States wanted a Syrian solution first, with us waiting two weeks or two months, that would be acceptable to us because the ultimate target is a comprehensive peace. What is important is that there should be a clear and open plan, free of Israeli maneuvers and media preamble. So far the Israeli approach to the Lebanese issue has involved a lot of maneuvering. For example, it some times calls for the formation of a joint military committee. We do not object to that, but Israel has not stated the aims of such a committee. As far as we are concerned, it must be in the context of programmed and scheduled Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and must discuss all security issues before and after the withdrawal. The Israeli offer was suddenly withdrawn and then, after a while, we heard that Israel was calling on Lebanon (that was Rabin's latest move) to end the Lebanese resistance and then wait six months as a test period before negotiations could begin. About what? We do not know. Rabin has not explained that, and the Israeli position on that point has not been clear. Lebanon is clear in its request that Israel should frankly declare acceptance of the principle of complete withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders, enabling the Lebanese state to impose its authority through its own capabilities and organs without interference from anybody. We believe that we have reached a conclusion but, regrettably, some people (the uninformed ones) believe that Rabin's concept is good for Lebanon. But they do not know what is behind that concept, which is no more than hot air. For instance, Rabin wants to keep the southern militias under his authority—which we reject.

[Abu-Husayn] Is Lebanon willing to "stop the resistance in the South" if Israel declares the principle of withdrawal?

[Buwayz] Yes, Lebanon is prepared to stop the resistance immediately if Israel commits itself to withdrawal. We tell Rabin that resistance is not a hobby but rather a result of occupation. When the occupation ends, resistance will end without any test periods or any such ideas. Resolution 425 is clear on that. What is required is a written agreement binding on both sides.

[Abu-Husayn] Going back to the meeting with President Mubarak: Was agreement reached on specific steps in the coming period?

[Buwayz] I gave President Mubarak all the details and points to enable him to support the Lebanese view in his contacts and efforts. I believe that he instructed Minister (Foreign Minister) 'Amr Musa to make the necessary contacts during his time at the United Nations, and we will be with him there.

[Abu-Husayn] Why were you recently informed of the postponement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, bearing in mind that he does not usually visit Lebanon. Was there some kind of agreement as to what was supposed to happen during the visit, but did not?

[Buwayz] U.S. Secretary Christopher has visited Lebanon twice. Reactivation of the Syrian file is considered to be a priority which could help solve the other problems. We are not concerned with a race here because the end result is the same, namely comprehensive peace. Furthermore, Israel's presence in southern Lebanon has cost Israel more victims than all its Arab wars. So far it has lost 2,650 military personnel killed in southern Lebanon. So it would be more in its interest to withdraw than to maintain the occupation.

[Abu-Husayn] Is there anything new regarding Arab coordination on the question of the boycott?

[Buwayz] The boycott issue is exactly the same as the resistance issue. It was a result of Israeli aggression and occupation of Arab territories, and the question of ending it will be discussed after a peace agreement is signed. We do not insist on the boycott just for the sake of it, and I do not believe that anyone in Lebanon does, but the causes must be eliminated first. To end the boycott before a solution is achieved or in isolation from progress in the bilateral negotiations would be tantamount to a tactical attempt to deprive the Arab negotiator of every weapon. We have heard U.S. President Bill Clinton call for an end to the boycott and wished that he would at the same time call on Israel to withdraw. We do not understand what he said because it was incomplete and meant nothing to us.

[Abu-Husayn] But the boycott is gradually disappearing. And with Israel attending the international economic conference in Morocco, does that not mean that different results are emerging?

[Buwayz] That containment of the boycott process and the multilateral negotiations is unacceptable to us. We will not attend that economic conference until a solution is reached with Israel.

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[Abu-Husayn] Is there an Arab plan or agreement to coordinate before that meeting?

[Buwayz] Lebanon will not participate in it. Previously, Lebanon's refusal to participate in the multilateral negotiations proved to be right. We said at the time that no results could be achieved in such negotiations before progress was made in the bilateral negotiations. We were opposed at the time, although some people decided to participate. Today we ask what has been achieved in the multilateral negotiations. Nothing. So these methods are futile.

[Abu-Husayn] Perhaps a Lebanese participation in the economic conference would play a part in Lebanon's reconstruction.

[Buwayz] The reconstruction of Lebanon can only be done by the Lebanese themselves. We have already begun to allocate major working plants for that purpose and at the infrastructure level and begun rebuilding the old markets. I believe that the Lebanese are fully qualified and capable of rebuilding their country once they regain their political rights and the situation becomes stable. We would welcome any of the Arab brothers or others. Anyone willing to make profit along with us is welcome. As regards reports about an Arab League role in Lebanon's reconstruction, there has been no progress there because the Arab League itself needs aid.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UN Session

NC2109081594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut for New York this morning, where he will represent Lebanon at the 39th UN General Assembly session.

In a predeparture statement he made at Beirut Airport, Minister Buwayz said that the situation in the south will be the main focus of attention, in addition to the conditions of Lebanese detainees in the Israeli occupation prisons. He added that this session will be an opportunity to make important contacts on the sidelines and that he will raise Lebanon's stance on the peace negotiations during these contacts.

Al-Hariri Returns From Damascus Talks

NC2009164494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and members of his delegation returned from Damascus a short while ago. In Damascus, the prime minister attended the meetings of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission. Several bilateral agreements were signed during the commission's meetings.

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U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross Meets al-Asad, Departs

JN2009182594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace at 1300 today, Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process, and Martin Indyk, assistant to the U.S. president and official in charge of the Middle East at the U.S. National Security Council. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al- Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Ross conveyed to the president a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The message reemphasized the U.S. commitment to the Middle East peace process and its work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. During the meeting, they resumed discussion of ideas pertaining to the peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Ross informed President Hafiz al-Asad that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region during the first half of next month to continue the U.S. efforts to promote the peace process.

Following his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Ross made a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent. He said: I had a good meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. We had an opportunity to discuss issues in detail and in a lengthy way. Ross added: I believe I can convey the points on which our talks were based. Afterward, I will return to Washington to submit a report to the secretary of state and President Bill Clinton. Ross said: We will proceed on this path. We sensed that the parties were serious, and we will continue the work to achieve results.

Asked whether he feels that there is any greater possibility for peace now, Ross said: I feel there is great seriousness about achieving peace. We will work to achieve results and move in this direction. [Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1815 GMT on 20 September broadcasts a similar report, adding: "Dennis Ross left Damascus this evening at the conclusion of a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic that lasted one day."]

'Unequivocal' Israeli Commitment Said Needed

JN2009131094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The facts are no longer a secret to anyone. Everybody knows which party is obstructing the peace process. Likewise, it is common knowledge that a just peace is part of Syria's strategy. Syria has made positive efforts to launch the peace process and is always eager to maintain this process.

The game of procrastination and a policy of intransigence mark Israel's usual conduct as soon as there is a sign of new U.S. efforts to propel the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This applies to the tour of Dennis Ross, which serves as a prelude to secretary Christopher's visit, just like any other round that has to do with advancing the peace process.

The fog of Israeli maneuvers and ploys, however, is not destined to accumulate this time. It is scattering and dissipating by the force of the words of President Hafiz al-Asad used to inaugurate the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly.

This time, the world has felt, while listening to President Hafiz al-Asad, that everything that could be said about peace by any party has been said. Therefore, the world is now waiting for a declared, unequivocal Israeli commitment to withdrawal from the occupied territories to the 4 June 1967 lines.

This is the position the world is now awaiting and demanding from Israel. Obviously, Israel has started to sense this universal feeling that has grown following the speech of President Hafiz al- Asad and has placed Israel face to face with world public opinion. For example, Israeli President Ezer Weizman spoke the day before yesterday [18 September] and referred to what he alleged was a problem facing the Israeli Government with the Israeli community if it makes a decision to withdraw from the Golan. The reply to Ezer Weizman, however, came immediately from another Israeli, namely, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who said that it is regrettable that Israeli officials have made the settlers believe that they can stay on the Golan permanently. That was an illusion, and the settlers must be freed from it, sooner or later. Thus, the Israeli minister has stressed that the Israeli Government alone should settle any problem that it might face inside Israel if it wants peace indeed, that is, if it decides to withdraw from the Golan.

Successive Israeli governments are to blame for creating this problem and are alone responsible for resolving this problem. The intransigence that Israel expresses through maneuvering is now an exhausted, useless weapon. The world can no longer accept anything from Israel short of a declared commitment to withdrawal, with the necessary speed, from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines. This commitment alone is evidence of Israel's desire for peace—if it has such a desire. This Israeli commitment is also the only acceptable Israeli equivalent in exchange for Syria's position and understanding of peace as full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal.

Papers View 'Constructive U.S. Efforts' for Peace

JN2109084294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Where Is the Problem?" AL-BA'TH notes the letter President al-Asad received yesterday from the American President, in which Bill Clinton renewed a U.S. commitment to pursue efforts to bring a just and universal peace to the region.

In remarks following his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. envoy Dennis Ross said details related to the peace process were examined in depth. He said he would convey the outcome of the session, which he called good, to his administration.

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Where is the problem, then, and who is obstructing the peace process and the efforts to promote it, the paper asks. AL-BA'TH notes that Syria has agreed to the peace initiative and translating it on the ground. Despite certain parties straying from the course of the initiative and pursuing separate deals, developments show that although this deviation has affected the substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it has not scuttled the initiative. The peace initiative is on and the U.S. Administration, along with Syria and Lebanon, is committed to it.

The paper concludes: On the eve of Ross' arrival in the region, Rabin acknowledged and stressed the depth of differences with Syria. In the meantime, the media has been reporting about what it calls secret talks between Syria and Israel. Differences with Israel, AL- BA'TH emphasizes, will remain as long as it insists on flouting the principles of the peace initiative. As for the secret talks, Syria's policy has been and will remain... [15-second break in reception]

Writing on the same theme, TISHRIN writes: Syria welcomes the U.S. efforts to attain a just and universal peace, and will show every concern for the foundations that launched the peace process, above all the land-for-peace formula. Without a doubt, the United States now realizes that Syria's efforts are sincere and serious.

Thus, Syria is right to ask others to approach the requirements of peace seriously and constructively. All parties stand to gain from peace. It is not permissible for any party to treat these requirements with frivolity. Syria has nothing to hide; its position, being based on UN resolutions and a comprehensive settlement, is clear. By underlining the inseparability of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, Syria is making the point that piecemeal and separate deals are conducive to peace. TISHRIN emphasizes that, just as in the case of the Golan Heights, south Lebanon must be vacated and returned in full as must its displaced people. The United States, the paper says, is capable of injecting the peace process with hope and removing the obstacles and barriers that have blocked its path, particularly on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. Israel's attitude about the agreed components of peace, as provided for in the American initiative and the UN Security Council resolutions stipulating an Israeli withdrawal, continues to be less than serious.

An Israeli undertaking for a full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon would stimulate the peace process and boost the hopes placed in the constructive U.S. efforts to promote a just and comprehensive peace. There can be no peace as long as Israel refuses to be bound by a complete withdrawal, TISHRIN concludes.

AL-THAWRAH, writing under the headline "Policies of Obstruction," discusses the projected Middle East tour by the American secretary of state for which Dennis Ross laid the ground yesterday. As it does each time the United States embarks on a fresh attempt to unblock the peace process, Israel raised a media fuss over the Golan with the aim of frustrating the latest U.S. effort and forestalling whatever fresh and practical ideas may be proposed by the two American envoys, in order to keep the peace process from making any headway.

Israel is contriving differences in the Israeli body politic to justify its rejection of the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab territory. By creating such a stir, Rabin is trying to point to stiff internal opposition to a complete pullout from the Golan. Israel is thus hiding behind the screen of an opposition of its own making to signal that it cannot deliver on a complete withdrawal. The outcome of America's sustained effort has consistently proved disappointing thanks to Israel's obstructionism. In contrast, Syria has sought to advance the peace process by renewing its absolute support for the bases that launched the process.

The side that stands opposed to a just and comprehensive peace and comes up with no end of alibis to extricate itself from the requirements of peace must take the blame for the failure of the peace process to move forward. Unless Israel is made to observe the principles of the peace process and meet its requirements, most of all a full withdrawal, no real progress is possible, concludes AL-THAWRAH.

Al-Shar' on Nuclear Weapons, Withdrawal Issues

NC1709151094 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1310 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Safa' Hijazi in Cairo; date not given; from the "House of The Arabs" program—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Hijazi] ...the Arab boycott?

[Al-Shar'] This is a very important issue, because it concerns the Arab states' national and pan-Arab security. As far as I know, all the Arab states have signed the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and the agreement on guarantees, while Israel has neither signed the treaty nor the agreement and rejects international inspection of its nuclear installations. This is an appropriate opportunity to raise this matter now and before next year, when an extension or a renewal of the nonproliferation treaty's term will be considered. The Arab states need to consult and coordinate with each other so that their renewal of the treaty is linked to Israel's signature on this treaty. If the Arabs manage to coordinate such a stand, we believe it will be an important card in their hands as it will bring pressure to bear on Israel to join the nonproliferation treaty when it is up for renewal again in 1995.

[Hijazi] And is this possible? Is it possible to have a unified Arab position particularly at this time, when we are in need of some self-evaluation?

[Al-Shar'] Unfortunately, and despite the Arab League's resolution not to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons unless Israel [illegible]ed the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, some Arab states have backed down, in violation of the Arab League resolution, and joined the treaty anyway, without Israel's signature on the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Now the situation is extremely delicate and

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sensitive since, as I have already mentioned, it concerns the national and pan-Arab security of each and every Arab state...

[Hijazi, interrupting] For each Arab state and all the Arab states combined.

[Al-Shar'] This is true. At the same time, I believe that even if some Arab states do not coordinate their views and fail to adopt a unified Arab stand, other Arab states still will not sign or agree to extend the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons if Israel declines to join the treaty. This, by itself, will generate pressure, even if by a few Arab states. As I see it, Syria and Egypt are very much concerned with this sensitive and serious issue. The two countries' position on this matter is identical, a fact that could have a considerable influence on the world community to compel Israel to join the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons when it is extended. This is because unless all the countries in the region join the treaty and place their nuclear installations under international inspection, the region will be considerably far from stability and security.

[Hijazi] But if Israel maintains that Iran and other non-Islamic countries have nuclear weapons in the region, what action should be taken?

[Al-Shar'] We are seeking to make the Middle East free from all weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, and biological. I believe that when this issue is officially raised, Iran will have no choice but to join. I heard statements from Iranian officials who said they are ready to join an agreement on making the Middle East free from all weapons of mass destruction and that this should be done within an international framework—that is, within the framework of the United Nations.

[Hijazi] The Syrian-Israeli track is now the focus of the peace talks, and everyone is waiting to see what will happen in the coming days. In his public statements, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that there will be no withdrawal from the Golan before three years and that this is to test Syrian intentions. What is your view?

[Al-Shar'] It is the Syrian Arab side which really needs to test the Israeli intentions. We should not forget that during the long period of the Arab-Israeli conflict, around 50 years, Israel was the aggressor. Palestinian refugees and the many Syrians displaced from the Golan are evidence of this. There is also the matter of the constant attacks on Lebanese villages and towns by the Israeli warplanes. Israel cannot claim to be the target of Arab aggression. For example, if we go to the UN records, we would find that they indicate that there are a great number of resolutions condemning Israel for launching aggressions against neighboring Arab countries and not the other way around. Therefore, it is the Arab side which needs to test Israeli intentions. In this case, the test lies in Israel's quick withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories so that the Arabs can feel that Israel is really serious about achieving a just, comprehensive, and real peace in the region.

Economy Minister Addresses Damascus Fair Opening

JN2109061894 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 3

["Text" of speech by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi opening the 41st Damascus International Fair on 28 August]

[Excerpts] Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, I am overwhelmed with great joy and an immense feeling of pride that the President of the Republic struggler leader Hafiz al- Asad has honored me to represent him in opening the 41st Damascus International Fair, which he has continued to patronize since the Corrective Movement as part of his patronage of the process of development and progress. [passage omitted]

If President Hafiz al-Asad's persevering work and pursuit has achieved for us the great economic achievements we see now in our country, his patronage of the Damascus International Fair has come to project the efforts of the citizens—workers, peasants, industrialists, merchants, craftsmen, inventors, individuals, and establishments—toward the development process, in appreciation for these efforts and in support of their good endeavors to build their homeland.

This patronage has also come to emphasize Syria's firm policy to strengthen the ties of brotherhood with the fraternal Arab countries and to extend the hand of cooperation to all friendly countries.

Our economic policy confirms our desire to become an effective member of the international economic community, benefiting ourselves and others from the boons of finance, trade, investment, and technology. This is not a new thing in our life. Our country has always been a major crossroads for Eastern and Western trade. The role which our merchants and industrialists have played in this trade constitutes the heritage we are proud of, just as we are proud of the history of Damascus as a center of trade, industry, and civilization, which enabled our forefathers to establish their great Arab state. We are always aware of the heavy responsibility of that heritage, with which President Hafiz al-Asad is trying to link our present with our past, resurrect all the values which we the Arabs have always been proud, and offer the cultural contributions which immortalized our pan-Arab message.

Ladies and gentlemen, our masses have interacted with the wisdom, courage, clear-sightedness, wider perspective, and discerning view of President Hafiz al-Asad and thus succeeded in making great achievements which cannot be eradicated by time based on economic diversification, democratic development, self-reliance, and Arab and international economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

In the Field of Universities and Higher Education

The number of colleges has increased from 19 to 46 and male and female students from 36,762 to 194,321, with emphasis on certain branches of specializations. Students of medicine have increased from 1,756 to 10,426, dentistry

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from 325 to 4,688, and engineering from 2,937 to 27,897. This has been accompanied by an equal increase in the teaching staff from 230 to 2,659, including 231 women. [passage omitted]

Through this qualified and trained manpower and with our people's well-known love for hard work and production, we have succeeded in proceeding with the development process under the slogan of self- reliance. Public and private construction companies have been set up to implement various development projects. The emphasis has been on building dams and irrigation and drainage networks to provide the water needed to increase irrigated areas and to conserve available water by using it correctly within the main objective which the leader has asserted since the early seventies, which is to achieve food security within the framework of integrated rural development.

The number of dams which have been implemented until the middle of this year reached 136 with a total storage capacity of 157 billion cubic meters of water. Work is continuing to implement vital irrigation projects in the different water basins, especially the Euphrates Basin:

In the Euphrates Basin

—The hydroelectric Tishrin Dam project, which consists of six turbines with a capacity of 620 megawatts.
—The reclamation of 20,000 hectares in Balikh including the main 100-kilometer canal.
—The reclamation of 20,000 hectares representing the second phase of Maskanah Gharb project.
—The reclamation of 17,800 hectares in Maskanah Sharq.
—The reclamation of 5,000 hectares in the fifth sector of the Upper Euphrates.

In the Coastal Basin

—The al-Thawrah Dam project, which will irrigate 9,152 hectares.
—The martyr Basil al-Asad Dam, which will irrigate 10,160 hectares.
—The Tall Hawsh Dam project, which will irrigate 7,000 hectares.

In the Tigris and al-Khabur Basin

—The al-Khabur Dam project, which will irrigate 40,000 hectares.
—The Main Canal project M2-4, which will irrigate 26,000 hectares.

In the Orontes Basin

—The 17 April Dam project in Maydanki for generating electricity power of 20 megawatts and irrigating 30,000 hectares.
—The Zayta Dam project, which will store 80 million cubic meters of drinking water for Hims and Hamah Governorates.

The Yarmuk Basin

—The Kudnah Dam project, which will irrigate 2,500 hectares.
—The Saham al-Jawlan Dam project, which will irrigate 1,800 hectares.
—The study and exploitation Wadi Hurayr springs.

In the Badiyah [Syrian Desert] Basin

Work is continuing on several dams in order to supply water for all purposes in Tall al-Jadid, Na'amiyah, Tadmur, and other areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, the implementation of these projects will stabilize agricultural production by increasing irrigated areas, adding more land for exploitation, and converting areas which depend on rainfall into irrigated lands. In 1993, the area of irrigated lands reached 1,013,000 hectares, an increase of 107,000 over 1992, which was 118,000 hectares more than 1991. All this has been achieved by reclaiming lands, encouraging the private sector to dig wells and develop irrigation methods, and ensuring the necessary loans from the Agricultural Bank.

These agricultural policies have had a tangible effect by increasing agricultural production and ensuring capital goods on time. The private sector has been allowed to import these capital goods, which included machinery and the requirements for greenhouses.

The necessary measures have also been taken to increase exports. The volume of loans granted to producers to help them carry out their agricultural activity and ensure capital goods has also increased. These loans reached 11.685 billion pounds in 1991 and 13.423 billion pounds in 1993. Important achievements have been made through agricultural scientific research, agricultural guidance, and agrarian reform, such as growing fruit and forest trees and providing health and veterinary care for livestock and other services. All these achievements have reflected positively on production and productivity. Our production has increased in the case of several agricultural products and, God be praised, we have achieved self-sufficiency in several of them.

In the Field of Industry

Earnest efforts have been continued by all parties concerned in the industrial development process to achieve the maximum possible interaction, integration, and coordination among the three sectors—public, private, and mixed—in order to take maximum benefit of their financial and human resources and capabilities, as well as their technological and industrial expertise. This has been demonstrated by the major increase in investments in the industrial fields. Industrial private sector firms have increased from 8,770 in 1990 to 35,947 in 1993. The capital of these firms has increased from 1.584 billion to 22.646 billion pounds during the same period. As for the industrial projects that have been licensed under Investment Law No. 10 of 1991, they have reached 513 with a total investment of 97.8 billion pounds.

These projects have covered many fields; foremost, their commendable contribution to the manufacture of molds, which marks the real beginning of industrialization, and

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also to the drug, textile, metallic and food industries. The industrial public sector establishments and companies are building cotton yarn factories in Idlib and Latakia each with a capacity of 15,000 tonnes. They are also developing and expanding other production lines and carrying out the necessary studies for the establishment of new projects. Technical studies have been completed for a project to establish a new cement production line in Hamah with a capacity of 1 million tonnes annually, and the establishment of a new production line for ceramics with a capacity of 11 million cubic meters.

Work has also begun on the initial studies to establish a sugar factory in the central region to process 6,000 tonnes of sugar-beet per day and refine 600 tonnes of sugar per day.

In the Oil and Gas Field

The 1993 production, refining, drilling, and prospecting plans have been fully achieved. Work is now centered on developing the discovered gas fields and linking them to the consumption centers to ensure the continued use of gas, instead of oil, as a power source for operating power stations. Discussions are in progress to develop refining capacities through cooperation with the Arab and international private sectors. Contacts are also underway with world petroleum companies with the view to signing service contracts with them for oil and gas prospecting work in the open regions.

In the Electricity Field

Pursuant to the directives of the president of the republic, the government has responded to the needs of energy consumption by ensuring the maintenance and operation of existing power stations. During the first half of 1994, the power generated by these stations reached 7.08 billion kWh [kilowatt hours] compared to 6.11 billion kWh during the same period in 1993. In order to ensure the growing need for electric power, contracts have been concluded to import and install eight gas turbines with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts. These turbines will be commissioned for service one after the other beginning October 1994. The first gas-powered turbine with a capacity of 100 megawatts will be commissioned at the Jandar Power Station in October. Work has also begun to build the hydro-electric power station at Tishrin Dam with a capacity of 630 megawatts. Bids are currently being studied to build the Aleppo steam-powered power station with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts. Work has been completed in installing and commissioning the 400 and 330-kilovolt transformer plants in Damascus and Hamah. Work is underway on a third power station in Aleppo. These new power stations will help improve the operation of the national power grid.

Several high-tension power lines with transmission capacities of 230 and 66 kilovolts have been established to link the new power stations with the national grid in order to improve the operation of this grid and reduce loss. Some 1,000 km of medium-tension power lines have been established to feed about 1,000 transformer plants in order to meet the needs of new subscribers and to improve operational conditions. Some 200 new villages have been supplied with electricity in different governorates. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, every Syrian citizen today feels that he is part of this new economic revival, which is based on the principles of the Corrective Movement that affirm that development is a national cause which concerns the present and future of all citizens and therefore we must all take part in it. These principles also affirm that development means building society in every aspect and that the road to this development is national unity, and devoting all energies to the construction process on the bases of democracy, freedom, and the principles of economic and political plurality. The economic reforms that have taken place and that will be continued in the future have given categorical proof of their success and benefited everyone. Above all, these reforms have confirmed what we have always believed in—that God has endowed us with a wise leader in the person of President Hafiz al-Asad.

In the Field of Foreign Trade

Due to the guidance and reform policies that have been pursued, whether by liberating the importation of all kinds of raw materials, consumer goods, machinery, equipment, and provisions and permitting the private sector to import them alone or on an equal footing with public sector firms, or increasing oil production to the extent of completely dispensing with oil imports, a change has occurred in the distribution of import costs between the public and private sectors. The private sector has undertaken the major responsibility of supplying most of the capital goods for production, including machinery and equipment, which the public sector used to ensure. The private sector has even undertaken the supply of basic foodstuffs such as sugar, rice, tea, coffee, dried milk, car tires, buses, and micro-buses. This is in addition to supplying the needs of development projects that have been set up under the investment law. Thus the private sector's imports have increased from 6 billion pounds in 1987 to 28.7 billion pounds in 1993.

Regarding the public sector, the increase in Syrian light crude has reduced its import burdens by an equivalent of the value of 10 million tonnes of crude annually and the value of all the wheat and fodder crops which are now available locally. Regarding exports, oil production has witnessed a big increase from 5.047 billion pounds in 1987 to 21.001 billion pounds in 1993. As for commodity exports, which are now going to hard currency countries rather those of the Payments Agreements [the former Soviet Union], they have also increased from 6.979 billion pounds in 1987 to 14.311 billion pounds in 1993.

These increases in imports and exports have led to a change in the value of the commercial sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] from 12.6 billion pounds in 1980 to 101.3 billion pounds in 1993. [passage omitted]

If we consider the effects of the economic reforms and the application of their principles; namely, that every citizen

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has a role in the development projects, that the private and mixed sectors need to work to work side by side with the public sector in order to assume the responsibilities of development, and that producers should be given a wider scope to work according to their desires and capabilities, we will find that capital formation in Syria has increased from 20.016 billion pounds in 1985 to 102.633 trillion pounds in 1993. This increase has occurred in basic sectors of the national economy such as irrigation and sewage projects, power stations and various industries.

If we look at the distribution in the amount of investments between the public and private sectors, we will find that the private sector has increased its contribution to capital formation from 6.751 pounds [number as published] in 1985 to 65.937 billion pounds in 1993. Of course, the credit for all this goes to the investment law which has given the expected results in a fairly short period of time. In that period of time, the law's implementation guidelines were issued, an investment bureau was set up, and the Higher Investment Council held several sessions which have so far approved 1,070 projects with total investments of 157.2 billion pounds, including the equivalent of 116.5 billion pounds in foreign currencies. These projects, which are expected to employ 73,000 workers, are centered in the agricultural and dairy farming sectors, where 24 projects have been approved with total investments of 17.6 billion pounds; the industrial sector, where 513 projects have been approved with total investments of 97.8 billion pounds; and in land and maritime transport and rent-a-car business, where 532 projects have been approved with total investments of 40.2 billion pounds.

Regarding the effect of the reforms on production and the domestic product, we will find that major increases have occurred. The domestic product has increased from 138 billion pounds in 1985 to 685.8 billion in 1993. The GDP has increased according to current market prices from 83 billion in 1985 to 398.5 billion in 1993. The average annual growth of the GDP during this period has reached 21.6 percent. The average annual growth in agriculture is 27.6 percent; mineral industries 24 percent; manufacturing industries 15.9 percent; electricity and water 36.8 percent; construction 14.4 percent; trade 23.7 percent; transport 21.4 percent; finance, insurance, and real estate 17 percent; and social and personal services 14.2 percent.

These growth averages have rectified the structure of the domestic product by giving the agricultural sector a bigger role in domestic product formation. The agricultural sector's contribution to the domestic product has increased from 21 percent in 1985 to 30.8 percent in 1993.

Despite the high population growth average in Syria, which is estimated at 3.6 percent annually, the individual's share in the domestic product has increased from 5,890 pounds in 1980 to 29,754 in 1993. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, despite all the encouragement and support we have given to the private sector and the wide scope we have opened for it, we still find ourselves, as a government, driven by virtue of the interests of our country to implement several development projects. We are currently implementing the following projects: The hydroelectric Tishrin Dam, the Jandar and Zayzun power stations, the Tishrin power station, the al-Zarah electricity project, the al-Tayyim power station, the 'Adra and Hamah transformer plants, the Aleppo power station, the phosphate fertilizer plant in Tadmur, the rehabilitation of the sulphuric acid factory in the Homs fertilizer plant, the Idlib cotton yarn plant, the Latakia cotton yarn plant, the expansion of the gas treatment plant in al-Jibsah, the gas pipeline from al- Jibsah to Hims, grain mills and silos, the building and equipping of hospitals in various governorates, improving the first aid system, water, sewage, and dam projects, irrigation, road, telecommunication and other networks.

Our implementation of these projects, gentlemen, is a testimony not to the rivalry, but to the cooperation and competition, between the public and private sectors in carrying out the economic development process we are all witnessing. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, from this place where we celebrate the opening of the Damascus Intentional Fair, we affirm our determination to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. When the United States announced its peace initiative in 1991 to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria expressed its support for this initiative, which considered UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Under this initiative, the Madrid Conference was held in late 1991. Then, subsequent rounds of talks began in Washington. However, these talks have stumbled due to the obstacles which Israel has placed in the way of peace by its continuous maneuverings to divert the negotiations from their substance, which affirms the principle of land for peace, and its attempt to penetrate the front of the negotiating Arabs states in order to deal with each Arab side individually and to conclude a separate peace deal with it outside the framework of the Madrid peace conference and the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria has clearly stated that peace is neither indivisible nor can it exist under any form of occupation and that separate deals cannot be an alternative to just and comprehensive peace, which cannot be achieved or become real and stable in the absence of its main requirements; chiefly, Israel's return to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Ladies and gentlemen, Syria peace is a strategy, not a political tactic which is dictated by new developments. The president has embodied this Syrian stand in his courageous words: "Complete withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace." This means no to compromise on any inch of the occupied territory, no to the division of peace, and no to any Israeli attempt at extortion under the excuse of security. No one who occupies other people's territory has any right to talk about security contingencies. With this excuse, he is only covering up his greed.

Comprehensive peace must cover all tracks, hence the common Syrian-Lebanese stand which emphasizes Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Syrian heights and southern Lebanon, especially since Security

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Council Resolution 425 calls for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories. Syrian-Lebanese cohesion is a constant affirmation that we are one people living in two independent states.

Anyone who wants peace must work for it, which is what Syria is doing. Peace cannot be achieved in the absence of Syria, which is what the U.S. Administration affirmed during the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bill Clinton, through telephone contacts, and through the statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Syria has a central role in the peace process. Peace cannot be real and honorable unless it is achieved on all tracks of the conflict.

We will not only work for a just and comprehensive peace, but also continue to extend our hand to all brothers and friends in order to exchange trade between us. We will also continue to develop and diversify our production, build new productive capabilities in our country, train and rehabilitate our workers and technicians, and exchange scientific and technological expertise. We want to encourage tourism and cultural exchange. We also support the universality of knowledge and we have the desire to contribute to its enrichment.

Our country, which is proud of its ancient history, distinct cultural contribution, democratic structure, respect for and defense of human rights, and economic and political plurality, has all the qualifications to enable it to contribute to building the world economy. [passage omitted]

Once again, honored brother guests, I welcome you in the name of the president of the republic and wish you a happy stay in your country, Syria. I also wish our relations steady growth and prosperity.

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Afghanistan

Hezb-e Wahdat Party Leader Blamed for Kabul Fighting

LD1909212894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Now we draw your attention to a message by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari, spokesman and head of the political committee of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Unity Party]:

[Begin Akbari recording] In the name of God , the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Dear long-suffering citizens of Kabul and tragedy-stricken people of west Kabul: Unfortunately, we are witnessing the outbreaks of fighting in the west of Kabul, where the hungry and tragedy-stricken people have suffered the pains of fighting in the past two and a half years. [passage omitted]

This fighting, which began on Wednesday [14 September 1994] night with current dimensions, contrary to claims, is not between the Harakat-e Eslami and Wahdat-e Eslami parties. The fighting is not between Harakat-e Eslami and Wahdat-e Eslami. This destructive war was started by Mr. Mazari and a special group affiliated to him—elements with bad records and of unknown identity accused of corrupt ideas—against Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye and against Harakat-e Eslami simultaneously. [passage omitted]

Who set ablaze the flames of war? Naturally, it is Mr. Mazari who has set alight the flames of war. The fighting is no one else's fault. The main reason for past clashes, during which we suffered and sustained casualties, as far as I know, was the obstinacy and ambitiousness of Mr. Mazari. [passage omitted]

This conflict was a coup d'etat by Mr. Mazari and his special gang against the majority of Shias and Hazara people. It is the duty of all of us to assess the [word indistinct] of war and the facts of how it started. One should think logically and have a responsible approach.

One should question who started the fighting, who resorted to a coup d'etat and attacked his brothers with guns and tanks. I think, if permitted, Mr. Mazari would not let the flame of war extinguish. [passage omitted]

In 1368 [1989-90], a number of us tried to free the people from civil war and party in-fighting. So therefore, the officials got together and formed Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye of Afghanistan. I was one of the three people who laid the foundation of Hezb-e Wahdat. [passage omitted]

Finally, on Wednesday evening on 23 Sonbola [14 September], he organized an armed attack on my residence. He embarked on a coup d'etat against Hezb-e Wahdat and Harakat-e Eslami. The greatest pressure was exerted on my position. [words indistinct] He wanted to kill me. He set the region on fire.

My request from our ulema outside the country is: to show responsibility and organize a delegation to come to the country, to the capital, to the west of Kabul, to see how Mr. Mazari is playing with (Islam), the fate of people, and the nation to see how he and his associates have taken people hostage, and how they have savagely shed the blood of their people—to see how they plunder their people's homes and properties. They even plunder the homes of ulema. He plunders the homes of high-ranking members of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

Our intellectuals, wherever they are, should feel responsible. They should organize and send a delegation to see what is happening to the people. [passage omitted]

Inside the country, we want the people and the mojahedin to have mercy on themselves; to have mercy on their families, and not kill each other, destroy each other for the sake of the wishes of a selfish and ambitious person and dictator. [passage omitted]

Rabbani on Importance of Independent, United Afghanistan

LD1909200094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 19 Sep 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in an interview with a correspondent of Radio Holland said: We are in favor of an independent and united Afghanistan and will not allow the disintegration of our country in the name of race, language, and tribe. The esteemed president of Afghanistan in a reply to a question by Mr. [name indistinct], the aforementioned reporter, added: We want to ensure justice in our society so that all the people have equal rights and duties and we want to rebuild Afghanistan. We also want to eradicate poverty, ignorance, and illiteracy in the country and are strongly against dictatorship, terrorism and use, production and smuggling of narcotics.

Afghanistan does not interfere in other countries' affairs and does not allow others to interfere in our country's internal affairs. We are in favor of good and friendly relations with all the world countries, especially Muslim countries and our neighboring countries.

Our country's president in reply to another question by the reporter added: The adventurists and warmongering elements, due to their terroristic nature, have began a war against Islamic sovereignty. Once, using Dostum as their pretext, they killed our innocent and Muslim people for 18 months. Another time, using the defense minister as a pretext, they started fighting again. However, it was seen that despite the resignation of the Defense Ministry they did not refrained from fighting.

Therefore, it became obvious that based on their sinister terroristic and antihuman objectives, they see their interest in continuation of war, and therefore, fanned up the war every day.

Fifty Militiamen Said Killed in Khenjan Area

LD2009192994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] A report from Khenjan reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] says: After a successful operatio..

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carried out by the mojahedin of the Islamic Army, several strong positions of the Golboddin-Dostam militia were conquered and 50 militiamen were killed. The report adds that the militia was unable to remove even one of their 50 dead men. During this operation 50 weapons of various types were seized by the mojahedin and the Islamic Army.

The Golboddin-Dostam militia have lost their combat morale in Khenjan, and one after another of their positions are being conquered by the mojahedin.

According to another report, as a result of two mines in the Nawrozi area, Dasht-e Sherganak, a GAZ motor vehicle and a jeep of the Dostam militia was destroyed. Another BIA report says that 10 passengers on a GAZ, including four high ranking officers in the militia, were killed, and 20 other passengers were seriously wounded. The commander of Tashqorghan garrison and three other men were killed and three others were injured when the jeep was destroyed.

Dostam Troops Said Defeated in Baghlan Province

LD1909165194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] According to a report, an extensive offensive by Golboddin-Dostam's militias in the region of Tala and Barfak, Baghlan Province was defeated.

According to report received by Bakhtar Information Agency, today the infamous Dostam-Kayhan's militias resorted to an extensive and comprehensive offensive on positions of Mojahedin in Tala and Barfak. The attacks faced heavy resistance by Jehadi forces of Tala and Barfak, and the militias were defeated and forced to retreat.

During this attack a large number of militias were killed, and much of their combat equipment and supplies were destroyed. The report adds that a militia commander was under increasing pressure from Mojahedin in this clash, and in order to free himself from the situation asked for help from Dostam, militia ringleader.

Rocket Attacks on Kabul Reported

Missiles Said To Kill 18

LD1909161694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Eighteen people were killed in Kabul when Golboddin-Dostam militias fired missiles last night and today on Kabul city.

A source in the Kabul garrison command says: During the last 24 hours Golboddin-Dostam's militias fired 190 missiles on Kabul city. As a result, 18 Kabul citizens were killed and 41 injured. Fire caused by the militias' missiles last night at around 2000 [local time], five houses were destroyed. As a result of the impact of missiles on residential areas, five members of a family were martyred instantly.

The report adds that the intensification of militias' missile attacks on Kabul, especially during the night, demonstrates that Golboddin revenges his repeated defeats on the defenseless people of Kabul.

Five Said Killed, 16 Wounded

LD2009182494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] According to a report, an aircraft of the Dostam militia thievishly dropped a bomb in a area near the Asama'i mountain [near center of Kabul]. This bomb, fortunately, did not cause any loss of life.

According to another report from the Kabul garrison, the Golboddin-Dostam militia fired today again 25 rockets and shells on the residential areas of Kabul, as a result of this savage attacks five innocent citizens of Kabul were martyred and another 16 were injured.

These rockets, in addition to loss of life, damaged four residential houses. One container and one motor-vehicle were set on fire.

According to a recent report, Ostad Mostafa Kazimi, one of the jihadi personality and member of the central council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, who was abducted on the night of 13 Sonbola [4 September] by the Mazari's men, was freed by today's operation and cooperation by the mojahedin of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. Together with Mr. Alemi he arrived at the city's center.

'Fierce' Fighting Said Continuing West of Kabul

LD2009182594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Fierce fighting was continuing today in the west of Kabul and large areas were taken out of the control of the Golboddin-Mazari men.

According to reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency, after yesterday's calmness, the fighting fiercely flared up again this morning. The Air Force fighters of the Islamic State of Afghanistan bombed the positions, concentration points, and fortifications of the Golboddin-Dostam militia this morning. No accurate report is yet available of the losses.

A responsible security source said that the forces of the Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan] and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan], attacked today from three directions the positions and headquarters of the Golboddin-Mazari men in the western section of Kabul. A large area was taken from the Mazari's control and captured.

This morning's mopping-up operation was launched from the Mahtab Qala direction, and Pol-e Sokhta and several other posts in the vicinity of this area were brought under the control of the Harakat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami forces.

In another operation, launched from the south, Dehmazang, Karta-e Sakhi, and Mirwais Maydan [in west Kabul], and 70 of Mazari's posts were conquered by the

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mojahedin and large areas were taken out of their control. During today's operations, dozens of Mazari-Golboddin men were killed and dozens of others were injured and forced out of the battlefront.

A large amount of various weapons and ammunition was seized by the Harakat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

India

Article Criticizes 'Unfair' U.S. Trade Practices

BK1909134294 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 17 Sep 94 p 8

[Article by Darryl D'Monte: "Are trade barriers skirting the real issues?"]

[Excerpts] By any reckoning, the broadside fired by US trade officials against the import of allegedly inflammable skirts made in India serves notice that America will stoop to nothing when it comes to protecting its interest. The unprecedented action by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in raising a nation-wide scare about this apparel—even demonstrating how a ghagra burns on TV—without warning Indian exporters indicates that there is a hidden agenda beneath the bluster. It is surely that some 14 million skirts, including 250,000 "hot" ghagras fabricated from rayon, have been imported from India this year and this presents a threat to the domestic textile industry.

When economies are getting globalised, trade—more than the aid of the Cold War era—is becoming a significant lever in prising open markets for goods from the industrialised world and restricting the South's exports. For textiles, although GATT was meant to lower tariffs throughout the world, the West has continued to stick to the multi-fibre agreement, under which quotas are imposed on exports to the North. While protected economies are lowering their barriers one by one, the North is by no means over-anxious to demolish its own fences.

Increasingly, obstacles are being raised against the free movement of goods and services under the guise of different social concerns. While safety and health are being cited in the case of the ghagras, environment and human rights are looming large in trade talks constantly. A typical case in point was the attempt by US trade officials to ban the import of Mexican tuna. They argued that in the process, Mexican fishermen were netting lovable dolphins, which often died. Mexico took the case to GATT. Which held that a country cannot interfere with the environmental policies of its trading partner. However, this did not deter the US from entering into a bilateral agreement with Mexico on tuna imports.

Similarly, under the Montreal protocol of phasing out ozone- depleting substances, countries which do not sign on the dotted line can be denied the import of environment-friendly technologies. Since these replace refrigerants and other widely used chemicals containing CFCs [chlorofluorocarbons], no country can deny itself them. The catch is that developing countries have consumed little of these chemicals and have not contributed to the hole in the ozone layer but will have to pay for the new know-how. If they opt out of the treaty, they may be faced with a boycott by manufacturers of substitutes.

Complicated Process

A third instance concerns the threatened ban on imports of goods made with child labour, which affects all South Asian economies in particular. Senator Tom Harkin, in his Child Labour Deterrence Bill, has sought to prohibit the import of goods made by "workers" under 15 years old. This would hit manufacturers of carpets in this country particularly hard, since these exports fetch Rs 1,400 [rupees] crore a year.

Fortunately, US trade officials recently appear to be having second thoughts on this Bill. The redoubtable Robin Raphel, of Super and Special 301 notoriety, admits that the administration has not yet finalised its position on the law and that "child labour in South Asia is a complicated issue". She believes that the remedy may be worse than the disease because children banned from one occupation may only seek employment in another even more hazardous one. She specifically cites match factories (typically, Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu) and glass-blowing units (Ferozabad in UP [Uttar Pradesh]). On this score, at least, Indian exporters have been given a brief respite.

To be sure, the abolition of child labour is far more complicated than US or our own lawmakers may imagine. The fact remains that children are at work because they need to earn a living—often they may be the sole breadwinners for a family. Activists make a distinction between child "labour", which implies servitude, and "work", which is voluntary. Considering that there are an estimated 20 million children employed in this country any ban will only invite utter hardship. Instead, the practice should be regulated. However the Union Labour Ministry, probably roused from its somnolence due to the threat from abolitionists in the North, has just created a national authority to wean children away from work, which seems doomed to fail. The thrust of the Rs 850 crore scheme is on placing children in vocational institutes which, given the sheer numbers involved, is impossible to achieve. One has only to look at the Capital itself where, activists allege, the proportion of children at work is the highest in the country. [passage omitted]

At any rate, it is clear that every society should decide on how to introduce such social reforms on its own, and not at the instigation of the North, which seeks to impose its standards elsewhere in the world. Ultimately, the overall development of a country alone will ensure that standards that are taken for granted in the industrialised world are universalised and to that end, unfair trade barriers are a hindrance, not a help.

Idea of 3d Party in Kashmir Issue Rejected

BK1909134694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 94 p 8

[Editorial: "No Third Party"]

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[Text] It is axiomatic that no Indo-Pakistan dialogue will improve relations between the two countries unless it specifically addresses the Kashmir problem. When Dr Butrus Butrus-Ghali, therefore, offered to broker talks between the two countries he obviously had this basic issue in mind. New Delhi's prompt rejection of the offer is a logical corollary to its known stand on Kashmir. The UN Secretary-General knows this very well. This in fact is why he must have emphasised in Islamabad the imperative of the bilateral framework for talks on Kashmir. Why then did he make the offer in question during his visit to New Delhi? The most plausible explanation is his penchant for conflict resolution and that he had come under pressure from Ms Benazir Bhutto's friends abroad to try and bring about Indo-Pakistan talks on Kashmir. India need not be upset by his gesture. Likewise, he need not take the Indian rejection of his offer amiss.

This certainly does not mean that New Delhi per se attaches no importance to a peaceful resolution of any contentious issue through talks. Indeed, it is because of the Indian preference for a negotiated settlement that it has time and again asked Pakistan to agree to a dialogue.

The Simla Agreement of 1972 was nothing if not the first significant step towards a solution of the Kashmir problem through talks. It is bad enough that Pakistan has consistently sought to blow up this accord literally through bullets. Now Ms Bhutto has taken recourse to the sinister ploy of involving Dr Ghali in a purported bid to engage in talks. It is sinister precisely because any association of the Secretary-General with Indo-Pakistan talks was calculated to make it easy for Pakistan to try and reactivate the old UN resolutions on Kashmir. The last thing this stratagem envisaged was a genuine dialogue with India. It is just as well that this mischief has been scotched. In this connection, it is pertinent to mention the former Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif's recent disclosures about the bizarre ways in which policies on the nuclear issue and terrorism in Kashmir have been formulated in the past. These are clear signs of a rare turmoil in the highest echelons of the Pakistani establishment. Pakistan's drive to internationalise the Kashmir question and the dynamics of internal power struggle in Islamabad negate prospects of a genuine dialogue between India and Pakistan in the foreseeable future.

Further on Introduction of New Drug Policy

BK1909142594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 24

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 15—The Government's new drug policy, announced today, abolishes industrial licensing for all bulk drug and their formulations, encourages foreign participation, allows a higher rate of return and reduces price control from the existing 70 per cent to 50 per cent of the total drugs, with separate high-level authorities on price and quality control.

The new drug policy, which brings in long-awaited modifications in the 1986 policy, was announced by Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ran Lakhan Singh Yadav. The new policy, he said, aimed at providing sufficient medicines of good quality at reasonable prices. He did not rule out reclamping of price control in case there was "unreasonable" rise in the prices of drugs going out of Government control.

The new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) is expected to be announced in two months. The work of price fixation is proposed to be assigned to a new body of experts—the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority—and that of ensuring quality control to the proposed National Drug Authority to be set up under an Act of Parliament.

The policy, evolved after consultations with various interest groups, states that industrial licensing stands abolished for all bulk drugs and their formulations, and for intermediates, except for five identified bulk drugs reserved for the public sector, drugs involving use of recombinant DNA technology; and specific cell/tissue targeted formulations.

The modified policy says that companies with foreign equity upto 51 per cent would be at par with wholly Indian companies. Automatic approvals would be given for foreign technology agreements, as per the industrial policy, and for all products except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology.

A higher rate of return is being allowed in case of manufacture of drugs from basic stage. It will be higher by four per cent over the existing rates which are 14 per cent on net worth and 22 per cent on capital employed, to be allowed in fixation of prices for drugs under price control.

The issue of price control and its application was the cause of much speculation. The policy says that it has been decided to keep the drugs having an annual turnover of Rs [rupees] four crore or more, under price control.

However, the monopoly situation in cases of drugs with comparatively lower turnover is to be kept in view. For this purpose, if for any bulk drug having an annual turnover of Rs one crore or more, there is a single formulator having 90 per cent or more market share in the retail trade (as per ORG [expansion unknown]) a monopoly situation would be considered as existing.

Drugs in which there is sufficient market competition, at least five bulk drug producers and at least 10 formulators and none having more than the 40 per cent market share in the retail trade (as per ORG), may be kept outside the price control.

However, a strict watch would be kept on the movement of prices as it is expected that their prices would be kept in check by the forces of market competition.

With these measures, the number of drugs under price control will be reduced to about 73 from the present 142 and the span of control to about 50 per cent from the present 70 per cent.

The Government will keep a close watch on the prices of the medicine which are taken out of price control in case

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the prices of these medicine rise unreasonably, the Government would take appropriate measure including reclamping of price control.

A uniform maximum allowable post-manufacturing expenses of 101 per cent will be allowed in all case of drugs under price control.

To achieve uniformity in prices of widely used formulations, there would be ceiling prices of commonly marketed standard pack sizes of price controlled formulations and it would be obligatory for all, including the small-scale units, to follow the prices so fixed.

Special emphasis will be laid encouraging R&D in the pharmaceutical sector. Apart from existing incentives available for R&D including tax incentives, an inter-Ministerial committee will be set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to go into the question of providing further incentives and impetus for R&D in this sector within a set timeframe.

The Government would set up an independent body of experts, to be called the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), to do the work of price fixation. NPPA would take decisions on the applications of price approvals, within a set time limit of two months for formulations and four months for bulk drugs. The NPPA would also oversee the enforcement of the provisions of DPCO.

In order to provide a more efficient mechanism for ensuring quality control and rational use of medicines, a National Drug Authority (NDA) would be set up by a separate Act of Parliament. The NDA in addition to the work related to effective implementation of the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and of rules made thereunder would also be responsible for monitoring standard practices in drug promotion and use and to clearly identify those which are acceptable and prohibit those which are unethical and against the consumers' interest.

The NDA would prepare and publish a National Formulary and also the Formularies relevant to various levels (like district hospital, community centre, primary health centre) for the guidance of consumers as well as doctors.

Besides the need to undertake upgradation and augmentation of the existing infrastructural facilities, in terms of drug testing laboratories and enforcement staff, under the Central and State organisations there is need for establishing more zonal and sub-zonal offices under the Central Drug Standards Control Organisation as well as additional Regional Drug Testing Laboratories.

The implementation of those proposals would require additional funds, which are proposed to be mobilised by levying a cess [surcharge] of one per cent on production of drugs and pharmaceuticals, by a special legislation to be piloted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The funds mobilised through the cess would be utilised also for encouraging Research and Development in the drug sector.

To provide better focus to the development and promotion of ayurvedic, unani, siddha, homoeopathic and other traditional systems of medicine, a separate department, to look after all matters related to development and promotion of these systems, would be created under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

An inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee will be set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals for monitoring areas of key concern and for taking effective and timely action in respect of issues facing the pharmaceutical industry.

The Minister told newsmen that the new policy would help the industry to grow rapidly and not only meet the requirements of the drugs in the country but also increase their exports. He said there was divergence of opinion on the number of drugs to be kept under price control. While the industry wanted total decontrol, there were demands from other quarters for more and more price control.

Article Discusses Country's 'Weak' Export Sector

BK2009085794 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 18 Sep 94 p 12

[Article by Upendra Prasad: "First, We Must Have a Clear Vision for Exports"]

[Text] In the last financial year, 1993-94, we achieved a significant success on the export-front. In dollar terms, we registered a 20 percent growth in exports. Owing to a corresponding poor growth in imports, the deteriorating balance of payments (BOP) situation appears to have improved a little. After the success on the export front, the hope burgeoned that during the Eighth Plan the export rate growth target of 13.6 percent would be achieved. However, the initial months of the current financial year seem to belie that hope, as the export rate does not appear to be satisfactory. Last year the international market for India was quite unfavorable. The biggest business participant in this market, the USA, was afflicted with recession. The other great name in the market, the Soviet Union, had collapsed long ago, and the dispute on the loan issue from Russia was assuming bitter tones. In addition to the USA, other European countries were passing through an unprecedented phase of recession. Germany was still to emerge composed from the trauma of unification. With all these external, adverse international conditions, even the domestic situation in India was no better. The favorable results of the new economic policies were yet to show their effect (especially on the production front), while industrial recession was continuing unabated. Nevertheless, in spite of all this, the export growth rate was better than expected.

However, this year the trend is reversing. The international financial atmosphere is improving and India's development rate is also speeding up. Then why this dipping export rate? Our exporters have a complaint against the rupee's exchange rate. They want the rupee to be cheaper on the international market. This is, they want more rupees to be spent buying dollars, yen, marks or pounds so that they can earn more rupees from their

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export income (which, invariably, is in a foreign currency). For the last one to one and a half years, the rupee exchange rate (in dollar units) has remained almost stationary, while the rate of inflation has been rising unchecked. This means that while the domestic value of the rupee is falling, it is almost stationary on the international market. Consequently, the profit margins of our exports are being reduced. So, for this reason exporters now have to think twice before attempting to get any big export orders. Hence their demand for the devaluation of the rupee. Yet, will it solve the problem? First of all, their claim that the rupee has not grown softer in the international market for the last one and half years is wrong. The rupee exchange rate is linked with the dollar and the fact cannot be gainsaid that the dollar has lost its value vis-a-vis the main currencies of the world. Since the rupee exchange rate is linked with the dollar, indirectly it has also suffered devaluation in comparison with other foreign currency units. Hence, the apparent continued strength of the rupee cannot be cited as an important factor in the failure of our attempts on the export front because this argument is fallacious.

Then, why is our export sector weak? It appears that the belief in its alleged strength last year was founded on false premises. Before the announcement making the rupee fully convertible on the current account, the rupee's full convertibility in relation to the export income was deliberately kept hidden from foreign countries. After the announcement, income from exports began to trickle into the country giving a false impression of rapidly improving export growth. The full convertibility of the rupee caused an influx of income from exports which had previously been kept hidden in foreign banks. This is why the last year's export growth rate was registered at around 20 percent. However, this growth rate did not in fact reflect the strength of our export infra-structure.

As a matter of fact, India is yet to decide about formulating a current export-import policy which is not just confined to enforcing or withdrawing various restrictions regarding our customs duty rates or for that matter other constraints of a similar genre. This policy must include a clear vision of the items India is likely to export successfully, and must identify those productions exceeding our domestic demands, the export of which is likely to boost our overall trade. Our policy ought to clearly envisage the percentage of our GDP likely to be exported. At present our total exports are only 0.59 percent of the total global exports, and 8.8 per cent of our GDP. In 1951-1952 our export total was 7.2 percent of our GDP, but at that time India's export share was 1.97 percent of the total global exports. Obviously our alienation in terms of international trade has increased. Even if we wished to fix 1.97 percent as the target of our contribution to the total global exports, we would have to export 30 percent of our GDP. If India has to continue participating in the race for globalization, she must make all-out efforts to achieve this target and register her victory on the export front. Yet, for this it is imperative that we have a well-defined export-import policy, formulated with a clear vision.

Iran

Embassy in Beijing Protests Killing of Diplomat

LD2009195594 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 20, IRNA—Iranian Embassy in Beijing on Tuesday [20 September] lodged a protest with the Chinese Foreign Ministry against the tragic killing of an Iranian diplomat and his son in Beijing early this morning.

The Iranian diplomat Yusef Mohammadi and his nine-year-old son were killed when Mohammadi's car, carrying a diplomatic licence plate, was caught in a crossfire between the police and an armed man on a Beijing highway when he was driving his children to school. Another son of the Iranian diplomat was injured in the incident and taken to hospital.

The embassy statement said such actions were against international laws and urged the Chinese officials to launch immediate investigations and arrest and bring to justice those behind the tragic event.

Mohammadi was driving his two sons and two daughters to school from the Jian Guomen diplomatic compound in eastern Beijing when the incident took place.

Ambassador on Diplomat's Death

LD2109083894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] As you will have heard in our earlier news bulletins, an Iranian diplomat and his child were killed by an unknown gunman in Beijing yesterday. Six Chinese were also killed in the shootout and 32 others, including three other children of the Iranian diplomat, were wounded. A few hours ago we contacted our country's ambassador in China to give us more details. In this connection Mr. Mir-Fakhr said:

[Begin Ambassador Mohammad Hoseyn Mir-Fakhr recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good morning dear compatriots. Around 0720 yesterday morning our dear brother Mr. Mohammadi was leaving the Jiao Guo Men Wai diplomatic quarter of Beijing. As he was leaving with four of his children, there was a shootout in the vicinity of the area.

Apparently one of the gunmen stopped Mr. Mohammadi's car. The gunman intended to hijack his car, or perhaps he wanted to board the car. Details are not very clear. However, the gunman cowardly fired shots killing our brother Mr. Mohammadi and one his sons instantly.

After hearing the news, we took immediate steps to pursue the matter. We met the Chinese Foreign Ministry officials yesterday. We demanded a serious investigation of the matter and asked for an explanation. We lodged a strong protest and our Chinese friends made a very solemn promise to begin their serious investigation immediately. They will inform us of the details as soon as possible.

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In the Foreign Ministry yesterday they assured us that the incident was totally unintentional and not premeditated. They are going to give us more details today. [end recording]

Atomic Energy Chief: Israel Threat to World Peace

LD2009172394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Reza Amrollahi, vice president and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, warned that the Zionist regime with its nuclear weapons continues to be a serious threat to world peace and security.

Speaking at the 38th session of the General Assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency this morning, Mr. Amrollahi added: The Zionist regime, with America's backing, has turned its back on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and, by continually expanding its destructive nuclear activities, has been turned into a serious threat not only to the region but to world peace and security.

Charges Against Nuclear Program Examined

LD2009160494 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—A morning daily in its editorial Tuesday [20 September] referred to the recent undocumented charges against Iran's nuclear program and wrote that the accusers have even dared to question the credibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"It makes one think why certain circles repeat these charges, notwithstanding the statements by IAEA."

The paper pointed to support for terrorism, opposing the so- called Middle East peace process, and producing nuclear weapons as charged levelled by international Zionism against Iran and said: "The alternate repetition of these charges, individually or collectively, is meant to create anxiety in the region and the world regarding Iran's role."

The paper said that the charges are also aimed to sour relations between Iran and countries like Russia, the People's Republic of China, Japan and Germany, "whose governments follow the rational program of expanding relations with other countries, including Iran."

Moreover, the editorial noted, Washington did not favor this because it disrupts its plans to become the number one world power.

Turning to the fact that Iran was a victim of Iraqi chemical weapons, it said that Iran has oppossed to the production, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons and has focused its efforts to declare the Middle East a nuclear-free zone.

To this end, it said, Tehran has repeatedly voiced its strong opposition to the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by the Zionist regime.

"It is just another [word indistinct] on the fairness of the new world order that a country as passionate as Iran in its opposition to weapons of mass destruction should confront such baseless charges," it said.

The editorial concluded by saying: "Iran does not mind such allegations coming from Zionists, because its conscience is clear."

Slovak Official Ends Visit, Issues Invitation

LD2009170094 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—The visiting Slovak Deputy Foreign Minister Dusan Rozbora winding up his three-day official visit left Tehran Tuesday.

During his stay, Rozbora held talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, Majles Vice Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani and Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Yahya ol-Eshaq.

His talks with Iranian officials led to an agreement between the two countries to lift visa [word indistinct] in a near future for Iranian and Slovak nationals holding diplomatic and service passports.

He also invited Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his deputy for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi to [word indistinct] official visits to Bratislava.

Rozbora was the first Slovak official to visit Tehran since Slovakia decided to breakaway from the Federation of Czechoslovakia in January 1993.

Cartagena Oil Meeting, U.S. Energy Tax Viewed

LD2009212494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Station commentary: "The Joint Session of Oil Producers and Consumers"]

[Text] The joint session of oil producers and consumers in Cartagena, Spain, was convened at relatively low level Monday, 19 September, despite the presence of oil and energy ministers as well as representatives from 30 world countries. The reason was that oil ministers from some major oil producers, including two main OPEC members—namely, Iran and Saudi Arabia—and the oil ministers from Russia and America and Japan, as the two [as heard] major oil consumers, did not attend the session.

The most important goal of the Cartagena session is to survey avenues of cooperation and reciprocal understanding among oil producers and consumers and discussions on three subjects, namely, energy and environment, prospects of oil, and future of natural gas. All the world states, including oil producers and consumers, [word indistinct] the two major oil crises of the years 1983 and 1986, have witnessed numerous fluctuations and disorders in the oil market and energy supply in demand position over the past two decades. On this account, they have suffered irreparable losses. The most important reason for such

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losses is the absence of a spirit of cooperation and mutual discernment between the oil producers and consumers.

In view of these harmful experiences, and also some vast ranging developments in global economy and politics, coupled with new prospects for energy and environmental fields, holding of talks and forging cooperation between oil producers and consumers are among the subjects which have been set forth increasingly at international level over the past few years.

So far, not much success has been made in line with promotion of cooperation between the oil producing and consuming countries, nor between the OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing member states. One of the main reasons for it is the unilateral political-economic attitude of some great oil companies and governments in the West. For instance, the United States, under environmental justifications, has levied new taxes on consumption of oil products and is in this manner pouring its revenue, which is five times as much as revenues of the oil producing and exporting countries, into the government treasury, at the same time depicting a profiteering and unjust (?visage) from the oil-producing states, particularly the OPEC member states, for the American society.

This at a time when the nominal and real prices accessible to oil producers in the present market had been lower compared to those of the previous years. At present, the most affluent oil-rich states in the Persian Gulf are entangled with unprecedented and colossal budget deficit and foreign debts. Continuation of such a situation will negatively affect international economic gloom and investment for increase of energy supply to meet the ever-increasing demand, which will come from 55 billion barrels to 80 billion barrels by the year 2000.

Khamene'i Addresses IRGC Commanders, Officials

LD2009180794 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] On the eve of Holy Defense Week a large number of commanders and officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces at Jamaram.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said in a speech: Holy war for God and exposure to danger in the fight against the enemies of Islam was a great blessing for the forces of Islam.

He said: The Imam Khomeyni, as a great jurisconsult, pious man, and scholar, constantly wished from the bottom of his heart that he were a Guards corpsman, for what brought so much joy to the Imam was the verve and enthusiasm and willingness of the Guards of Islam to fight a holy war, to be exposed to danger and to fight the enemy, and take advantage of that opportunity to attain human perfection.

Emphasizing the stability and invulnerability of the Islamic system, the esteemed leader said: The great land of Iran, with its vast natural resources, such as oil, and with its sensitive position and important geographic situation, was removed from America's clutches. That government [the Shah's], which was a puppet of and subservient and obedient to America, was destroyed.

What America has done for certain small countries, such as Haiti, Panama, and Kuwait, clearly shows how the removal of Iran from of America's clutches and the establishment of an independent and Islamic system was so much like a fairy tale.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Majles on Defense Week

LD2109104494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, in a speech on the occasion of Holy Defense Week at today's open session of the Majles, paid tribute to our country's steadfast and combative people, particularly the families of the martyrs and freed POWs and the war disabled.

Referring to the various conspiracies hatched by the United States and other enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Nateq-Nuri described the imposed war as the biggest conspiracy of the world's arrogant powers against Islamic Iran. He said: Despite the fact that the entire world was mobilized against Iran with dollars, weapons, and their forces, the world witnessed how heroically the Iranian zealous and faithful people fought, preventing the dismemberment of even one inch of their territory.

He added: Today again we must warn our neighbors that the Iranian people, who gave so many martyrs and suffered so many losses in defense of their sacred homeland, are never going to give up the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. These island are part of Iranian territory and are regarded as Iran's undeniable and indisputable right.

Stressing the point that the regional countries should resolve their disputes among themselves, Mr. Nateq-Nuri reiterated: The U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf is the cause of tension and is against security.

Bill Bans Dual Employment for Civil Servants

LD2109100494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] During today's open session of the Majles, the draft bill banning people from having more than one job in the civil service was approved. This draft bill refers to Article 141 of the Constitution, which dictates that each person is allowed to have one government job only. Our parliamentary correspondent will give you more details on this draft bill later in this news bulletin.

Smuggled Drugs, Fuel, Satellite Equipment Seized

LD2109105694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpt] In the last six months the country's law enforcement agents seized more than 74 tonnes of assorted

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narcotics from smugglers. At a news conference today, Brigadier-General Seyfollahi also said that 740 assorted items of fine arts, more than 3,000 pieces of assorted satellite equipment, 6,000 carpets, more than 1.3 million liters of fuel, and six vehicles were also seized by the agents in that period.

He added: The value of the goods seized in the past six months amounts to 80 billion rials, and 10,000 smugglers were arrested in that connection. [passage omitted]

Ground Forces To Begin 'Massive Exercises'

LD1909152794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] During Holy Defense Week [starting 22 September] the ground forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct six massive exercises and demonstrate a fraction of the country's military power and the forces' readiness for war.

In an interview with our correspondent, Brigadier General Najafi, commander of the ground forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced these plans and spoke of the activities of the ground forces toward self-sufficiency. He said: The Army's ground forces have designed the Zolfaqar tank and succeeded in manufacturing the first tank in the Middle East in which no foreign technology has been used. Among other activities aimed at self- sufficiency were the modernization of the tank-carrier Babr-400 [Tiger-400] and the manufacture of parachutes, he said.

On clean-up operations of the war zones, the commander of the Army's ground forces said: Over 1,820,000 antipersonnel mines, 480,000 antitank mines, and over 2,480,000 unexploded ammunition have been removed from these regions.

Army Begins Exercises

LD2109122494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] On the eve of Holy Defense Week, more than 20,000 of the land forces' combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army began the military exercise Saman Ol'ama-3 in the general region of Khash, Sistan, and Baluchestan Province.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, this exercise, which is the largest Army military exercise in the general region of Khash, was initiated this morning by the forces of Armored Division No. 88 of Sistan and Baluchestan with the objective of creating combat readiness to implement relevant missions. The exercise will continue for three days.

In this exercise, fighter bombers of the Air Force, fire teams of the airborne division, and groups of Army artillery forces are reinforcing and protecting the infantry and armored brigades.

The specifications of these exercises are: proper use of the expertise of the active units; assessment of electronic and communication systems; evaluating the shortcomings and weak and strong training and operational points; and operational planning.

Pakistan

Spokesman Welcomes Announcement of U.S. Aid Program

BK1709143894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Under the U.S. AID program, the United States will provide to Pakistan $10 million as assistance. The assistance will be provided through nongovernment organizations working on issues crucial to the success of the prime minister's Social Action Program. The United States decision follows a successful meeting between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Cairo early this month. This will be the first fresh funding for Pakistan committed by the United States since the application of the Pressler Amendment.

Replying to a question about the announcement of the U.S. AID program, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that while the amount may be small it is important symbolically and politically. He said it affirms support for the prime minister's Social Action Program at the highest level in the United States. The Foreign Office spokesman said the American decision also indicates that Pakistan-U.S. relations may have turned an important corner.

Purchase of 3 Submarines From France Planned

BK2109091894 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has decided to buy three Agosta-90B submarines from France for strengthening its naval defence, official sources told The News Tuesday.

"The total financial package of three French subs will cost around dollars one billion and it is likely that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Paris and Islamabad will be signed on Wednesday", said the sources.

The MOU will be signed as a precontract guarantee from the French government that "that subs deal is fully supported by Paris and the manufacturing firm will not default in the delivery of waterbirds".

Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani and French Defence Minister Francis Leotard will sign the MOU, most likely on Wednesday.

However, according to official sources, the contract for the supply of Agosta-90B subs by DCN-I is expected to be signed between the company and Defence Production Division by end September.

the decision to purchase French subs, according to official sources, was taken by a special committee headed by Defence Minister. The Defence Committee of the Cabinet

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had already approved to purchase the subs from any of the three countries—France, Sweden and China.

It is in this context that French Defence Minister Leotard is arriving here on Wednesday for hurriedly-arranged two-day visit on the invitation of the Federal Minister for Defence Afrab Shahhan Mirani.

An official announcement says "his visit is expected to widen the areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the defence field". The Defence Minister, added the announcement, is likely to call on the Prime Minister and the services chiefs.

If three subs are purchased from France, the number of Agosta subs with Pakistan Navy will shoot to five. Pakistan Navy has two Agosta in its use, besides four Daphne subs. Sources said the decision to purchase Agosta subs was taken in the backdrop of Pakistan Navy's experience with Agosta waterbirds.

Editorial Assails Prices of Imported Medicine

BK2109104694 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Pharmaceutical Companies Looting Pakistan"]

[Text] For many years the people of Pakistan have been paying exorbitantly high prices for imported medicines. Compared to world prices we are being made to pay much higher prices. There are various ways in which this is done. One is the result of the collusion of foreign pharmaceutical companies with the corrupt officials of the Health Department. ZA Bhutto's government made an effort to reduce drug prices by the system of generic names whereby it broke the monopoly of the Western drug manufacturers and bought medicines from the competitive market. With the departure of the Bhutto government this scheme also disappeared and the multinational companies lost little time to reestablish their monopoly over our pharmaceutical industry.

Recently the Health Action International [HAI], an organisation of consumers and other public interest groups, which monitors the operations of pharmaceutical companies to see whether they conform to the World Health Organisation's action programme on Essential Drugs, issued a report on prices of imported drugs. In its newsletter of August 1994, HAI reported that in one year alone the pharmaceutical companies had transferred $6,648,000 out of Pakistan by claiming inflated import prices on raw materials. This figure pertains to only 12 selected drugs. The total would naturally be much larger. Pakistan imported Erythromycin at $150 per kg, while it was available from Switzerland at $70 per kg. Diazepam was imported for $561 per kg while it could have been imported from China at $27 per kg. Similarly, Hydroxprogestrone was imported at $1170 per kg while it could have been bought from Switzerland for $396 per kg. Similar disparities are there in almost all commonly used drugs. People are being made to pay very high prices simply because our Health Ministry permits the multinational pharmaceutical companies to loot Pakistan. The present people's government would earn the gratitude of the people of Pakistan if it broke the monopoly of the huge monopolists and bought its drugs in the competitive market. When Sheikh Mohammad Rashid was the Health Minister he could go to the countries of the socialist bloc and find a much cheaper source for medicines for Pakistan, but even now the Health Ministry could explore the world markets for buying its drugs. In open competition we are sure that we could import our medicines at rates that are three or four times lower than what we are now paying for Essential Drugs.

Our present Health Minister must be asked to explain whether he remains in touch with the publications of Health Action International and what prevents him making use of the information given by this organisation regarding drug prices. We suggest that all that needs to be done is to stop the corrupt practices in the Health Ministry and prices will come down appreciably. For a start no senior official should be permitted to accept the offer by a multi-national pharmaceutical company of a world tour at their expense. All other forms of bribery must be detected and stopped so that our officials are forced to search the market for our drug needs at competitive prices. We must compel the Health Ministry to buy its drugs from the cheapest source and resist the power of the monopolists.

The country's pharmaceutical industry needs to be strictly watched. Too many companies are putting spurious drugs on the market. Drugs supplied to patients in hospitals are often found to be ineffective, thus defeating all the efforts of the doctors and surgeons to cure their patients. In a number of cases doctors themselves have advised patients to use medicines bought from reliable chemists rather than use the free drugs supplied by the hospital stores. In every large city there should be a laboratory available to the public so that any person dissatisfied with a drug could have it tested. For improved health care services it is absolutely imperative that the government make renewed efforts to ensure a steady supply of reasonably priced drugs of standard quality. Effective measures must also be taken to ensure that the powerful drug manufacturers do not fleece the people of Pakistan.

For a start the government must immediately look into the report of the Health Action International and inquire how it happened that the pharmaceutical companies were permitted to loot the country in this blatant manner as reported by HAI. Those officials who were responsible for this scandalous affair should be taken to task and removed from their posts. The import of medicines should be made transparent so that the people are assured that they are getting the best drugs at the lowest possible prices.

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